Today's
The Herald-Palladium
included inside

Brandywine, Niles remain in state baseball rankings
Page B1

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Dowagiac News

Established 1897 • Serving Dowagiac, Sister Lakes and Cassopolis | **MAY 2, 2026** | leaderpub.com • A publication of The Herald-Palladium | **$4**

Creekside Greenhouse, Art and a Suit to reopen with art show

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Spring has sprung and with it comes the return of flowers and plants – as well as suits and hats – to 324 Pokagon St. in Dowagiac.

Dowagiac's O'Larry and Mildred Collins are gearing up to reopen their business, Creekside Greenhouse, for the season next weekend and O'Larry's men's fashion show and art gallery, Art and a Suit, will host an art gallery on the same property. Collins said a variety of his wood burning art pieces would be on display both inside the building and outside.

Located at 324 Pokagon St., Creekside Greenhouse offers a variety of potted plants and flowers, including daylilies, pachysandra, myrtle and vegetables such as tomatoes and bell peppers. Art and a Suit features pre-owned suits, hats and other men's items, as well as gallery space to showcase his wood burning and painting artwork.

Collins said the art show will start at 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday. While people can stop by

See **COLLINS**, page A6

Art and a Suit owner O'Larry Collins poses next to two of his wood-burning pieces. Art and a Suit will host an art show next weekend that coincides with the grand opening of Collins' Creekside Greenhouse.
Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Destination: Dowagiac

Dowagiac Chamber releases annual area guide, membership directory magazine

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The latest edition of the Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce's annual piece "Destination Dowagiac" has arrived.

The magazine, which features 44 pages of information on local history, events, restaurants, shops, attractions and more, will be used to promote the Dowagiac area to visitors as well as provide chamber members with address and contact information for every chamber member. A print run of 10,000 copies are being distributed to chamber members, South Bend, Cassopolis, Sister Lakes, Kalamazoo, South Berrien County as well as Pure Michigan rest stops.

"We're really excited to have that extended reach and to have them be so popular," Crouse said.

Due to an increase in membership, the chamber has increased its emphasis on finding ways to benefit members. Four years ago, Crouse, the chamber's membership coordinator, convinced the Chamber Board to allow her to create a magazine bringing attention to the Dowagiac area as well as chamber members. The first edition of Destination Dowagiac was released in March 2023.

Crouse spent months writing, producing and editing this year's magazine with help from chamber and community members. Fusion Design of New Buffalo and Walsworth Printing of St. Joseph designed and printed the magazine.

See **GUIDE**, page A3

Photo provided
Greater Dowagiac Chamber Membership Coordinator Eileen Crouse poses with the 2026 edition of Destination Dowagiac.

DOWAGIAC

City council OKs SMCAS assessment

Review of traffic control signs is also approved

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac City Council unanimously approved the adoption of a resolution confirming the special assessment roll for ambulance service funding.

For the last two years, the city has established a special assessment district and authorized a special assessment on all the properties in the city to fund ambulance services to the community in the wake of the abrupt shutdown of Pride Care in 2023. Since September 2023 the Cass/Van Buren Emergency Services Authority and Cass County Ambulance Authority have contracted with Southwest Michigan Community Ambulance Service, a regional ambulance service owned by member municipalities, to provide service to the area.

Currently, there is one ALS unit in the area operating out of the Jefferson station and one ALS unit located in the city owned ambulance building on the corner of Pokagon Street and Enterprise Drive. According to council documents, a cost increase of 3 percent was factored into the tax subsidy for the CCAA meaning approximately $525,000 will be needed to fund SMCAS services next year.

The special assessment request is for $150,100 which includes the estimated cost of the current contract, building, and insurance expense. Based upon the city's current taxable value the assessment would be 1.35 mills.

David Fairs, of Dowagiac, spoke prior to the council's decision and said he was against a SAD being used to pay for an ambulance service.

"I'm not against the ambulance service, I'm just against the way that the ambulance service is taken care of with the special assessment due to the fact nobody has proven to me that it increases the value of my wife and I's property at all."

The council also moved to authorize a traffic control order for the city based on the maps prepared by Cass County GIS. One of the projects the Cass County GIS team has been working on for the city is identifying all traffic control signs throughout the city. According to council documents, a comprehensive review of all traffic control signs like this has not been done for many years. The results of this project will allow for a consolidation of the traffic signs into a single, unified Traffic Control

See **COUNCIL**, page A3

Dowagiac honors teaching couple

By JOHN EBY
For Leader Publications

DOWAGIAC — In its 1990s heyday, Dowagiac's Dogwood Fine Arts Festival offered a seamless arts synthesis.

A generation of school children grew up believing the proper way to read a book was to read it, then quiz a Pulitzer Prize-winning author who came right to their school about where the story originated and what inspired its characters.

For his tireless efforts in putting Dowagiac on the 1990s literary map, Elks Lodge 889 recognized Rich Frantz March 13, 2001, as "Citizen of the Year" for 2000-2001.

As the Visiting Authors Committee chair, Frantz was instrumental in bringing world-class authors to the Grand Old City.

He and his wife, Teri, who both taught at Union High, were honored with a proclamation by Mayor Pat Bakeman at Monday's Dowagiac City Council meeting for their years of dedication to the community.

The couple was honored as Dowagiac Daily News "Hometown Heroes" in 1996. Dowagiac Rotary Club in March 2000 presented him a "Red Rose for the Living," an international award that originated in Dowagiac in 1941.

Frantz was born in Detroit, graduated from Buchanan High School in 1973 (Teri Gish graduated the same year in Marshall) and moved to Dowagiac in 1986 to accept a teaching position. He coached freshman and junior varsity football.

Though he preferred directing to acting, Frantz did two seasons on "Beyond Our Control,"

See **HONORED**, page A3

Dowagiac Mayor Patrick Bakeman (left) presents Rich and Teri Frantz with a proclamation during Monday's city council meeting at City Hall.
Photo courtesy of John Eby

Today's obituaries • Page A3

Guy Wayne Verrett
Suzanne N. Tobias
Donna K. Gorham
Carol Mae (Kennedy) Moon
Thelma Louise Sink
Constance Jean Charles
H. Paul Kolloff

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FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ I work at NASA and we have several of the moon trees around Johnson Space Center. Glad to see Fernwood has one and it looks to be doing well.

■ I fish the Dowagiac Creek and Dowagiac River regularly and hate hearing that a data center is planned for the area.

■ Happy to see the Niles, Buchanan and Brandywine communities come together to celebrate their students' success.

■ I wish someone would bid to repave Oak Street in Dowagiac.

■ I hope the recent events at the White House Correspondents Dinner serve as a wake up call for our politicians, suggesting that maybe, just maybe we should work harder to keep guns out of the hands of lunatics.

■ I loved seeing Rich and Teri Frantz honored by the Dowagiac City Council on Monday. Two people who have dedicated so much to our community.

■ Many soon-to-be high school graduates are eager for summer work, internships and career opportunities. I hope the business community helps them.

■ What big events does our community have planned for America's 250th birthday?

WEATHER

Today: Areas of frost before 9a.m.. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 51. Light and variable wind becoming northwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Areas of frost after 1a.m.. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 34. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers after 2p.m.. Partly sunny, with a high near 61. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 47.

SMC honors outstanding grads

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — College stereotypically conjures images of 18-year-olds moving into dorms, traipsing huge campuses and "following a pretty straight line" to graduation.

"But that's not the only version of college. For many of us, that was never our version at all," business major Cole Kilboy told SMC's Outstanding Graduate Reception April 28 in the theatre of the Dale A. Lyons Building on the Dowagiac campus.

Kilboy, from St. Joseph, has been accepted by the University of Michigan and awaits word from the University of Notre Dame. He plans to study philosophy, then attend law school.

"Community college asks something much different of its attendees," Kilboy said. "At SMC, a lot of students don't arrive with perfect timing, perfect confidence, perfect circumstances. A lot of us came here while working jobs, helping family, raising kids, commuting, changing direction and trying to prove to ourselves that we were still capable of something more."

"Some of us just came here hoping to figure things out," he said. "Some of us came here knowing exactly what we wanted. But all of us, in one way or another, chose to keep going, and that deserves to be recognized.

"Being a graduate from a place like SMC is a lot more than passing classes," Kilboy said. "It means showing up when life would have given you every excuse not to. It means figuring things out with no blueprint. It means balancing deadlines with responsibilities people may never fully see. And it means building a future, often while still trying to rebuild parts of yourself."

"It's also about the people who made that possible," Kilboy said. "To the parents, grandparents, siblings, spouses, children, friends, professors, advisers, staff members, thank you for encouraging people when they needed it most ... no graduate gets to a moment like this completely alone."

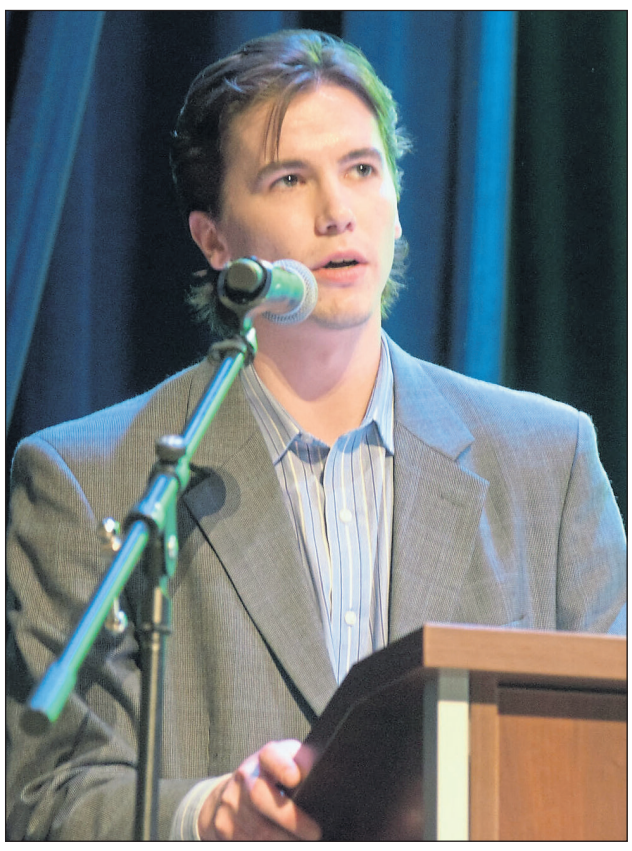

Photo provided

Business major Cole Kilboy speaks during SMC's Outstanding Graduate Reception.

Reiterating his gratitude for faculty and staff, Kilboy added, "Your impact goes far beyond delivering course material or making sure our campus looks as good as it does. You create opportunities, recognize potential, provide us with an inspiring environment and give people a reason to believe that they belong in rooms they once thought were out of reach. That matters more than any of you get to hear."

"One of the most meaningful things about a place like SMC is that success here is not often one-dimensional," Kilboy said. "Some students are heading straight into the workforce. Some have already had careers and are building something new. Some are trying again after years of thinking school wasn't for them.

"Some are the first in their families to reach this point. All of those stories belong here. That's what makes our cohort strong. It's not because we all walked the same path, it's because we kept going even when the path wasn't there. What you build here is proof that you can work, adapt and keep going. It's also proof that your circumstances never get the final word on your future.

"There will be people in life who underestimate community college students and who think smaller schools equal smaller stories," he said. "Let them be wrong. The people in this room know what it means to earn something the hard way. We know what it means to keep showing up before the results are visible. And we know what it feels like when people do not respect where we're coming from.

"That kind of strength does not leave us after graduation. This is where it starts to become permanent, so be proud of the work that you did, be proud of the version of yourself that refused to quit and be proud of the fact that whatever comes next, you're not starting from nothing. Remember, if you have the capacity to do good, you have the responsibility to do good. I can't wait to see what you guys do next."

"I don't know that I can follow him," Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Services Dr. Melissa Kennedy said. "You've done good when you make a 2008 (SMC) graduate cry."

Kennedy and Interim Dean of the School of Arts, Science and Business Robin Shipkosky read honor graduates' messages and presented certificates and portfolios.

Manager of Development and Executive Director of the SMC Foundation Board Emily Schrock reported, "In the past year alone, more than 1,000 students achieved scholarships totaling more than $1 million.

Tom Ellspermann, Terry Groth and Patty Patano represented the 23-member foundation board.

One hundred and 20 students graduating with honors at SMC's 59th Commencement May 9 were recognized for earning cumulative grade-point averages of 3.5 or higher: Atyanna Alford, Nicholas Alvarado, Christian Anderson, Serenity Bake, Jack Bertrand, Brian Bookout, Kaylee Bradshaw, John Bullard, Michael Burks, Madelyn Bush, Caleb Christian, Diamond Collett, Tia Cornelius, Collin Cozadd, Travis Danelski, Mariah Dickens-Mantey, Silas Dobson, Jamie Dotson, Kurt Elkins, Liam Emerick, Alex Facundo, Kaitlin Ferrell, Arly Fitzgerald, Tara Fosdick, Tasha Foust, Amanda Frye, Abraham Furrer, Alexa Garcia, Phillip Gray, Sara Beth Greenway, Rebekah Griffiths, Erika Gunn, Brett Hardesty, Lauren Hart, Nevaeh Hemminger, Destiney Hensley, Talan Hiemstra, Javon Hill, Tyler Hippensteel and Sophia Hojara.

Also: Avarie Hood, Alexander Horvath, Carter Houseworth, Hunter Hurley, Amelia Hurst, Makayla Jackmovich, Clayton Johanson, Annabelle Johnson, Jennifer Jones, Danielle Kavanagh, Mary Kenney, Cole Kilboy, Dallas Kirchman, Brody Knepple, Anika Lambdin-Kron, Jaylen Lanier, Grace Layman, Breanne Lee, Lillian Lester, Alexis Lewis, Ivan Lopez, Lauren Lovell, Sophia Lutz, Lauren Mackey, Kaleb McCombs, Austin McCreary, Jenna McGann, Dylan McLean, Meredith McWilliams, Marina Mendez, Elizabeth Michelakis, Kaylyn Moore, Victoria Morris, Cailey Myers, Sarah Nelson, Elizabeth Pachay, Thorin Palmer, Keegan Parsons, Kayla Patzer and Hindramalai Pawa.

And: Allyson Pettit, Jeremiah Preston, Joanna Pugh, Isabell Ramsey, Travis Rehborg, Jaylee Reybuck, Mikayla Reynolds, Carlie Ritchie, Stephanie Rodriguez, Emil Rydin, Dominick Sandoval, Lauren Schaer, Isabella Scheer, Amie Schutz, Clay Scoggin, Amani Scott, Gwendolyn Sexton, Bailee Shambaugh, Tyler Shindeldecker, Adrian Sirbu, Caydance Sluder, Sidney Smith, Samuel Stellmach, Cairra Stephens, Siara Stoddard, Brooke Strefling, Daijah Strickland, Natalie Tappenden, Abbie Tilley, Liz Van De Putte, Mara VanBuren, Tereza Varner, Dalton Wells, Jessica Wickey, Ethan Woger-Burrows, Audrey Wolf, Kiara Woods, Katelyn Young, Madeline Young and Katie Zebell.

President Dr. Klint Pleasant and Chief Academic and Assurance Officer Dr. Jeff Freels welcomed guests.

"With high achievement," Pleasant said, "comes a heightened sense of responsibility. The more knowledge you have and the smarter you are ought to create a little more humility and thoughtfulness. I hope you don't see this as the end, but rather the beginning of a lifelong journey to become a lifelong learner.

"This piece of paper isn't an opportunity to puff up and be more arrogant, but rather an opportunity to reflect on how you want to move through life. You just know a little bit more about all the things that you still don't know, and that makes you really smart."

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Cass Family Clinic appoints new dentist

By MAXWELL HARDEN
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CASSOPOLIS — Cass Family Clinic has appointed a new dentist, Dr. Jean Macajoux, DDS, to join its Cassopolis location.

After earning a degree in biochemistry, the New York native became interested in dentistry while participating in a volunteer outreach program at a dental public care center. Macajoux went on to receive his Doctorate of Dental Surgery degree from New York University College of Dentistry in 1991.

MACAJOUX

Before joining Cass Family Clinic, he worked in dental centers in Miami, Florida, serving as vice president of dental services at Jessie Trice Community Health System for seven years and the residency program director at Community Smiles Dental Clinic for 10 years.

"At this stage in my career, I was looking for a place where I could continue doing meaningful work in a setting that's stable, focused, and centered on patient care," said Macajoux, who moved to Michigan a few years ago. "That's what I found here at Cass Family Clinic."

In addition to his daily dental clinic responsibilities, Macajoux works one-on-one with the University of Michigan dental students who are training at Cass Family Clinic's Cassopolis location, providing them with hands-on dental clinic experience.

"Good dental care is not necessarily the most expensive dental care," said Macajoux. "It's care that gives patients options, helps them protect what they have, and teaches them how to maintain their health. It should be accessible, responsive, and affordable."

"Bringing Dr. Jean Macajoux to Cass Family Clinic's Cassopolis clinic enhances our capacity to serve patients in Cassopolis and the surrounding communities," said Cass Family Clinic CEO Joe Gavan. "His expertise and commitment to patient-centered care will elevate our oral health services to ensure more people in our rural communities have access to the high-quality dental care they deserve."

Lecture series continues with 'Gold Stove' presentation

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Museum Director Steve Arseneau continues the Dowagiac Area History Museum's Spring Lecture Series at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 6 with "A Mini Drill, Birchbark Booklets and a Gold Stove: Dowagiac at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair."

With Dowagiac being a train ride away from the 1893 World's Fair site, two local companies and one individual had a presence at the famous Columbian Exposition. Both the Dowagiac Manufacturing Company and the Round Oak Stove Company had booths promoting their products to the 27 million visitors while Simon Pokagon made several trips to the White City, partially to protest how the United States was treating American Indians at the time.

"There are great back stories about the booths and the items from the booths that have found their way to the museum's collection," Arseneau said. "Meanwhile, Simon Pokagon had a significant impact on the Columbian Exposition on Chicago Day and at the closing ceremony."

Arseneau will highlight those stories as well as the return of the Round Oak Gold Stove to the museum in the fall of 2025.

The Spring Lecture Series includes monthly programs on history topics. Dr. Matt Cripe closes out the series with A History of Dowagiac's Lee Memorial Hospital on June 3.

The programs are free to museum members and students, $5 for non-members. Seating is on a first-come basis. Membership will be available at the museum. The museum is at the corner of Division and West Railroad streets.

For more information, call the museum at 783-2560 or visit www.dowagiacmuseum.info.

COUNCIL

From page A1

Order based on what currently exists throughout the city.

Additionally, the map can be readily updated to not only include the current sign location, but also not sign condition, when signs are inspected/replaced, obstructions to visibility and more.

"We've been working with the County GIS to put together mats that outline the current status of all of those traffic control mechanisms within town to create the map so we could do a uniform traffic control order to set the standards for what we have within the community right now," said Assistant City Manager Amanda Sleigh. "This is going to outline the stop sign speed limits. It also does include some more robust heat regulations than were just approved at the last one that also calls for the three-hour parking and overnight parking in several of the downtown parking lots."

During the public comment portion of the meeting, one community member asked Bakeman if Hyperscale Data, the controversial data center in Dowagiac, had reached out following Bakeman's request to receive the company's plans for the space within 45 days. Another community member asked where Dowagiac's marijuana tax revenue goes and expressed their desire to see positive change in the community for the less fortunate.

City Manager Kevin Anderson explained the city's "WOW Projects" initiative that strategically invests adult-use marijuana tax revenue in high-impact community improvements designed to create visible, lasting enhancements to residents' quality of life. For fiscal year 2025, Dowagiac received $108,034.20 in adult-use marijuana distributions based on revenues from the city's two licensed retail stores – $54,017.10 from each establishment. Rather than folding these funds into general operations, city leadership has committed to using the revenue exclusively for projects that will create immediate, tangible benefits for residents and visitors.

"Over the last several years, that money's been used to support several things in the parks," Anderson said. "The first year was used to do major road improvements. The bulk of that last year was used at Russom Park for the walking trail and handicap accessibility. This year, there's been some targeted monies towards some playground equipment at Laylin Park, and so we're trying to get some pricing on that."

GUIDE

From page A1

"I like the stories and the research required for them. It's very much my baby," she said. "I'm really happy with how it turned out this year."

In addition to the print edition of the magazine, fully interactive digital edition is available on the chamber website.

"With the increased page count and print count, we finally have an interactive digital edition available," Crouse said. "If someone goes to the digital version, they can click on any ad and it takes them to that advertiser's webpage, URL or email. It's all interactive and someone could easily learn more about any of our chamber members or advertisers with a click."

Of the stories she wrote for the magazine, she highlighted the story on the establishment of the city's first flag as her favorite addition to the piece.

"I've been wanting to do a story on the flag since the beginning," said Crouse, who was the driving force behind the flag's creation. "This is the first year I really had room to dedicate two pages to the story of the flag, how it came to be and all of the meaning behind it. Now we're seeing it appearing more around town. After four years, it is finally becoming immersed in the community. It's on shirts, people are always requesting flags and it has now made an appearance on the Donald Lyons Health Center sign. It was becoming more visible and it was time to tell the story. That was my favorite thing to write in the magazine this year."

Crouse said the response she has received from community members has been positive.

"I have gotten text after text from people who have had a chance to look through it, saying they feel like it gets better every year," she said. "It's a great feeling. It will start going out into Berrien County, Sister Lakes, and Cassopolis over the next week, so people should keep an eye open for it."

For more information, visit the Greater Dowagiac Chamber website at dowagiacchamber.com.

HONORED

From page A1

the groundbreaking high school satire program influenced by the pre-"Saturday Night Live" forces of Monty Python and Firesign Theater.

With visiting authors, he set out to "raise the consciousness in town about literature," he told the Daily News in 1996. "This town needs to wake up because the fine arts have a better chance of saving our kids than sports do ... we're very fortunate we live in a town that's willing to take risks."

Filling Central Middle School auditorium for a free poetry reading, even for a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet such as Gwen Brooks in 1992, came as a pleasant surprise in a "football town" such as Dowagiac.

"The success of her lecture inspired us to try to get Kurt Vonnegut," Frantz said, "although the first time I said, 'Next year we'll bring Kurt Vonnegut,' I was joking."

Frantz graduated from Western Michigan University magna cum laude in 1976. He began his teaching career in Millington in the Thumb and also taught in Illinois.

In fact, it was in the Danville area with the Hoopeston Cornjerkers, whose mascot was an ear of corn, Jerky.

Frantz founded the DUHS Humanities Club to expose students to plays, concerts and cultural events, such as a 2001 bus trip to WMU for "Ragtime."

Annual trips exposed Dowagiac students to Broadway plays and art museums in such cities as New York, Toronto and Chicago.

Frantz served on the city Zoning Board of Appeals and coached soccer for his two sons, Josh and Justin, who both followed in their father's footsteps by becoming teachers. Daughter Aislinn became a playwright, dramaturg and associate producer of the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. She recently moved to the Seattle area to be associate artistic director at The Village Theatre.

As Dogwood developed, a partnership with Beckwith Theatre expanded the roster of renowned speakers to historians, poets, humor columnists, magazine travel writers, children's authors, playwrights, Rock and Roll Hall of Famers, a soap star, chefs, storytellers, visual artists, sculptors, dancers, acrobats and even an Oscar winner, Shirley Jones, matriarch of TV's "The Partridge Family."

Mystery writer Sarah Paretsky gave the last Central lecture on Friday the 13th in 2005, before Detroit native Jeffrey Eugenides christened the middle school Performing Arts Center.

There was a Dogwood doubleheader in 1994 of John Updike and Joyce Carol Oates. Before he found fame with "Angela's Ashes," Frank McCourt came to town in 1997. His acting brother, Malachy, followed in 1998 and led a rousing Irish singalong.

Norman Mailer not only took advantage of his 1997 visit to catch up with Muhammad Ali in Berrien Springs, he felt compelled to write a "blurb": "I had a very good time in Dowagiac. Once you learn how to pronounce the name, your troubles are over. The audience was keen, alert, even witty and the sense of excitement that a small town is having a big-league festival is unique."

Ali himself materialized in the DUHS gymnasium, bringing Charles Neville's gaping band to a halt.

A common thread coursing through Dogwood lore is that one visionary couple, Rich and Teri Frantz.

On Sept. 22, 1994, Teri arranged a phone interview for five of her student journalists, Amy Valdes, Benita Chang, Tim Wiggins, Jennifer Hudson and Aaron Heeter, with Lily Tomlin, the Detroiter who shot to national attention on "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In."

Teri has always been more of a background contributor than on the front lines, but her contributions were no less important in making the Visiting Authors Committee successful.

Her artistic talents proved useful in designing posters and T-shirts related to the author's visits, and she was instrumental in arranging accommodations, transportation and welcoming items for each author.

The community packed Central Middle School's auditorium Jan. 22, 1992, for a poetry reading sponsored by Dowagiac Union Schools and the NAACP by Gwendolyn Brooks, the first African American Pulitzer Prize winner.

In 1993, the Frantzes decided to build a week-long festival around a prominent author. Vonnegut was first to appear under the Dogwood banner.

The list of literary legends grew – John Updike, Joyce Carol Oates, William Styron, Alice Walker, Amy Tan, Ken Kesey, Pat Conroy, Tim O'Brien, Russell Banks, Jim Harrison, Margaret Atwood, Michael Cunningham, Jonathan Safran Foer, Richard Russo, Ann Patchett, Jonathan Franzen, Dennis Lehane, George Plimpton, Sherman Alexie, Michael Chabon and Gary Shteyngart.

Rich was a founding member of the Beckwith in 1990, directing more than 40 plays before stepping away from its board in 2018.

He loves theater because "it brings people together like nothing else. Even if you aren't the director, seeing a show go well is just wonderful."

"He is one of the finest directors in southwest Michigan," said fellow educator Max Sala, another Beckwith stalwart. "He has a special gift for directing people."

Rich knew community theater, like authors, drew people to Dowagiac, helping local businesses and dispelling the sports town's reputation as a "cultural wasteland. Here, in Dowagiac, we have a rebuttal. We have the Beckwith."

Death notices

Guy Wayne Verrett, 74, died April 22, 2026, St. Joseph, Michigan. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Suzanne N. Tobias, 57, of Niles, Michigan, died April 14, 2026. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Donna K. Gorham, 78, of Cassopolis, Michigan, died April 24, 2026, Cassopolis, Michigan. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

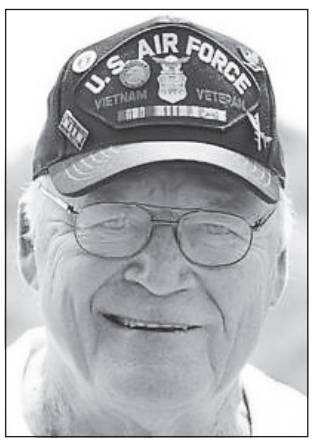
Carol Mae (Kennedy) Moon, 91, of South Bend, Indiana, died April 24, 2026. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Thelma Louise Sink, 81, died April 12, 2026, St. Joseph, Michigan. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

OBITUARIES

H. Paul Kolloff

May 8, 1947 – April 22, 2026



H. Paul Kolloff, 78, of Niles died peacefully Wednesday, April 22, 2026 in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began May 8, 1947 in Dowagiac, Michigan the second of two children born to Hank and Yolanda Kolloff. He married Ann Gorman January 14, 1984 in Niles, Michigan.

Paul was an avid outdoorsman who lived a life rooted in nature; with a curiosity for the sky, passion for NASA, and gazing up at the night sky to appreciate the mysteries of space. He proudly served as a member of the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, carrying that experience with quiet strength throughout his life. After serving, he attended Southwestern Michigan College before becoming a Senior Engineering Technician in Jet Propulsion. In his retirement, Paul greeted students at the North Dining Hall on Notre Dame's campus. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and was a steward for Topinabee Lake Preserve from its origin in 1995. Paul passionately cared about the local farm community and tended to a bountiful garden for many years. On a sunny day, he could be found taking a joy ride in his '93 Jeep Wrangler with his beloved beagles, Ginger and Molly, through town or bringing donations to the Humane Society. He also enjoyed bowling and had a deep interest in history, particularly stories of the Civil War which he was always eager to learn and share what he discovered. He was a lifelong member of the Moose Lodge where camaraderie and community were important parts of his life. Some of his most cherished memories were created by spending meaningful time on Drummond Island with family and friends.

Paul will be remembered as a man of independence and strength, whose deep love, passion, and unshakable will carried him through life and left a lasting imprint on all who knew him. He is survived by his wife of forty-two years, Ann Kolloff of Niles; daughter, Stephanie (Casey) Kolloff O'Neill of Tampa, Florida; two nieces, Rachel Gorman of Whiting, Indiana, Chimene Alexander of Killeen Texas; and one nephew, John Paul Alexander of Phoenix, Arizona.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Karen Alexander.

Family and friends will gather for a visitation from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 30, 2026 in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street, Niles. A funeral service will be held Friday, May 1, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the funeral home followed by burial in Calvary Cemetery where Mr. Kolloff will be accorded Full Military Honors.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Paul be made to Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, 8395 East Main Street, Galesburg, Michigan 49053 or via swmlc.org/honor-gifts-memorials or to the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan, 5400 South Niles Road, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085 or via humanesocietyswm.org/pages/donations.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

Constance Jean Charles

September 14, 1953 – April 23, 2026

Constance Jean Charles of Niles, Michigan, passed away the evening of April 23, 2026, with family by her side. She was "unstoppable" managing a prognosis of lymphoma when pneumonia suddenly set in at the age of 72.

Born September 14, 1953, Constance was the youngest of three daughters born to Susan and Robert Burkhart. She spent most of her life residing in South Bend, Indiana, close to her sisters, Patricia Mickelson and Karen Ott with husband Mike Ott and their children's families: Jennifer and Dave Murphy, Stephanie Cook, Elizabeth and Shawn Richard, Michael and Michelle Horvath, and Michele Horvath Seymour and Ryan Andrews.

Her greatest accomplishment was being a mother full of joy and pride for her three children, Katharine "Katie" Charles, Daniel Charles, and Patrick Charles, daughters-in-law, Sarah Charles and Nadia Charles, and her eight grandchildren Jackson, Deirdre, Brennan, Clark, Finn, Henry, Addison, and Sophie. As well as caregiver to the children loved at her daycare.

Leading with her heart of gold, she built an interconnected web of friends, neighbors, and blended families. Teaching the essence of life which is love and connection.

Family and friends will gather for a Memorial Service Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street, Niles.

Constance loved pink lilies if you would like to donate them to the funeral home in her memory. A bench will be placed in her honor in Charleston, South Carolina, a cherished place where she lived and worked for ten years with her daughter.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens

Obituary policy

Leader Publications publishes death notices at a cost of $15. Extended obituaries are priced based on character count.

If there's an error because of a mistake made by the newspaper, the obituary will be reprinted at no charge.

For more information, or to submit an obituary, email obits@leaderpub.com.

Community champions

United Way of SWMI honors volunteers

By PMG STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — More than 300 donors, volunteers and community partners filled Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center on April 23, for United Way of Southwest Michigan's annual celebration.

President and CEO Anna Murphy set the tone early, grounding the evening in the story of Tyrone, a Southwest Michigan resident whose path to stability ran through partners Michigan Works Berrien, Cass, Van Buren and New Heights Auto Service. Before the awards, Murphy wanted the room to remember what all of it is actually for.

"The future of Southwest Michigan isn't something that happens to us," she told the crowd. "It's something we cultivate when we show up with our strengths."

The evening's awards reflected exactly that.

Kathy Craig received the Margaret B. Upton Volunteer Leadership Award, Berrien County's most prestigious lifetime honor for community service. Craig's work leading New Heights CCDA's Community Food Network, combined with years of volunteer service with Habitat for Humanity, the Boys & Girls Club, Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency, and a role in launching the Emerge Innovation Hub, made her the choice among past MBU recipients, who select each year's honoree. The Frederick S. Upton Foundation will contribute $5,000 to a charity of her choice. Finalists Sue Willming and Vickie Wagner were also recognized for their decades of service to Berrien County.

In Cass County, Roseann Marchetti was named the Judge Susan L. Dobrich Volunteer Leadership Award recipient. A county commissioner since 2012, Marchetti has been involved in nearly every corner of civic life in the county, from the Edwardsburg Food Pantry to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission to the renovation of the county's 125-year-old historic courthouse. She will direct a $5,000 grant to a Cass County nonprofit of her choice, made possible by the McLoughlin Family Foundation. Finalists Carl Ross and Tim Hulett were also recognized.

The evening introduced a new honor: the inaugural Volunteer United Excellence in Service Award. Its first recipient was Linda Thomson, recognized posthumously for nearly 30 years of service through United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Linda prepared more than 125 tax returns each year, logged more than 200 volunteer hours annually, mentored fellow volunteers, and helped return more than $150,000 in refunds to the people she served. Her son Kyle accepted the award on her behalf.

Alison Harrop of United Christian Services received the Excellence in Impact Award for creating Coffee Connections, a weekly gathering that brings multiple service agencies together under one roof so clients don't have to navigate the system alone. In just the final six months of 2025, 357 households attended, 281 were connected to resources, and 642 individuals were reached.

On the workplace campaign side, Gast Manufacturing took home the Whirlpool Community Commitment Award for a year that included five Feeding America Mobile Food Pantries reaching 10,000 people, 2,500 pounds of food collected for the Salvation Army, 550 assembled care packages, and a steady stream of employees showing up for Rake a Difference. Logan Autism Learning Center earned the United Federal Credit Union David J. Weichhand Award after replacing its usual single fundraiser with three creative campaign events, including a Fall Food Fight where staff paid to dump apple cider, pumpkin spice lattes, mashed potatoes, and gravy on their own leadership team. The result more than doubled what the campaign had previously raised.

Cathy Summers of Indiana Michigan Power's Cook Nuclear Plant and Jill Tooman of Western Diversified Plastics/ Engineered Plastic Services were named Employee Campaign Coordinators of the Year.

Berrien RESA received the Live United Organization Award, honored for a growing campaign and deep commitment to the more than 24,000 students, educators and families it serves. The Live United Individual Award went to Thaddeus Hackworth, United Way's new board chair, whose energy and genuine investment in the work have already left a mark on the organization and the people around him.

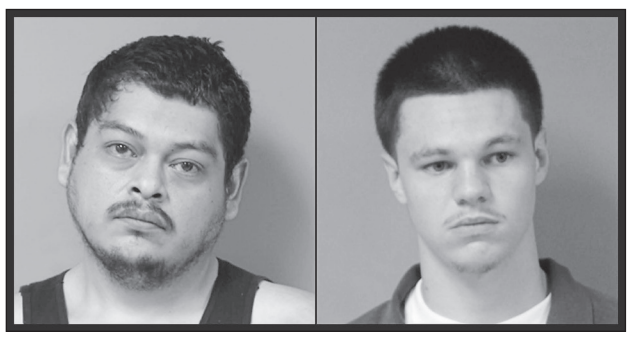
United Way of Southwest Michigan's celebration was made possible by Whirlpool Corp., Michigan Works Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Silver Beach Pizza, and the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber; The David J. Weichhand Award Sponsor United Federal Credit Union; Gold Sponsor Sturgis Bank; Bronze Sponsors Kruggel Lawton CPAs and The Purpose Partners; and in-kind sponsors Competitive Edge, Lake Michigan College and Martin's Super Markets.

Provided photo / United Way of Southwest Michigan

Kathy Craig, left, received the Margaret B. Upton Volunteer Leadership Award, and Roseann Marchetti received the Judge Susan L. Dobrich Volunteer Leadership Award at United Way of Southwest Michigan's annual celebration on April 23. Each award comes with a $5,000 grant the honoree may direct to a nonprofit of their choice.

Men get prison time for first-degree Niles murders

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Correspondent



Left: Alvarado. Right: Pence.

NILES — Emotions ran high Monday at the Niles courthouse as the families of two murder victims spoke before the sentencings of two area men convicted earlier this year of first-degree murder.

Rease Pence, now 21, of Dowagiac, was convicted last December by a Berrien County Trial Court jury of first degree murder, carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a stolen vehicle and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in connection with the May 12, 2022 murder of 14 year old Gavin Blankenship at the Arbor Trails apartment complex on North Fifth Street in Niles.

Blankenship's sister, mother and aunt spoke before the sentencing. His sister was there at the time of the shooting said she continues to be traumatized by her brother's death. "I hear the shots ringing in my head over and over," she said. "I have been angry, said and terrified … Gavin will never be forgotten."

His mother and aunt also talked about how the teen's death has affected them. "Our family will be forever altered," his aunt said. "He was walking in the wrong place at the wrong time when he was shot. Our society needs to wake up that joining a gang, stealing cars and killing people is not okay."

His mother told Pence she hopes he lives forever in a prison cell thinking about all the horrible things he's done. In addition to killing Blankenship, Pence was convicted in Indiana of killing two Niles women a month after the Blankenship murder. He is serving a 122 and a half year sentence for those murders.

Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein sentenced Pence to 40 to 60 years in prison on the murder charge and fines and costs for the weapon charge, 18 months to five years on the stolen vehicle charge and two years in prison for the felony firearm charge. He must pay a total of $462 in fines and costs.

The felony firearm sentence is consecutive to the other charges and all four sentences are consecutive to the Indiana sentences.

Pence was not sentenced to life without parole as he was a juvenile at the time of the incident and subject to the U.S. Supreme Court Miller v. Alabama decision that ruled that a life in prison without parole sentence for juveniles is cruel and unusual punishment except in rare instances.

Judge Hosbein held a Miller hearing on the matter earlier this month and ruled Monday that there were mitigating factors in the case that kept him from allowing a life without parole sentence including Pence's family background, his youth and his ability to be rehabilitated.

Pence was sentenced earlier in St. Joseph for incidents occurring last fall at the jail. He received concurrent terms of 19 months to five years and 16 months to two years for assault of a prison employee and resisting and obstructing police.

In the other case, Rene Lopez Alvarado, 34, of South Bend, was convicted by a Berrien County Trial Court jury in early March of first degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in connection with the murder of Courtney Hershberger on July 21, 2025 at her home in the Franklin Woods mobile home park in Niles Township.

Alvarado was sentenced to life in prison without parole on the first degree murder charge and a consecutive two year prison term on the felony firearm charge. He must pay $326 in fines and costs and has credit for 280 days already served on the felony firearm charge.

Hershberger's sister and mother spoke before sentencing. Her sister said the murder has ruined her whole life and hoped Alvarado lived a long life to think about his actions.

Her mother said she never thought something like would happen to her daughter and said she wished that Michigan has the death penalty. "I will never see her smile again or hear her voice or be able to hug her, I cry almost every day," she said. "I wish there was a death penalty, he deserves it. Maybe one day I can forgive him, but don't hold your breath."

Berrien County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Cortney O'Malley-Septoski said Alvarado failed to see Hershberger as a human being and treated her like trash.

As he had with the Pence case, Judge Hosbein offered his condolences to Hershberger's family. "I'm sorry for your loss, but there's just nothing I'll ever be able to do to repair what has been done or to bring your loved one back," he said. "I hope this is a stepping stone to your healing and will give you closure."

Robert Rolfe Feddersen to perform at The NODE

SUBMITTED

NILES — Niles Main Street is inviting the community to downtown Niles for the next installment of its Third Thursday concert series at The NODE, featuring singer/ songwriter Robert Rolfe Feddersen on Thursday, May 21.

A Chicago-born artist now based in Crown Point, Indiana, Feddersen brings a dynamic blend of Americana, folk and roots-driven storytelling to the stage. Known for his honest, reflective and often humorous songwriting, he has built an impressive 11-album catalog, including five albums recorded all analog in Chicago by the late, legendary producer Steve Albini (Nirvana, Pixies, Cheap Trick).

Feddersen's music career spans decades and genres. He first gained national recognition as the frontman of the mid-1990s Chicago band LOUDMOUTH, earning a gold record for his contribution to the Varsity Blues soundtrack with the hit song "Fly." His work has since appeared in numerous films, trailers, and television programs.

As a full-time touring artist, Feddersen performs more than 100 shows each year, connecting with audiences through engaging, audience-inclusive performances. His songwriting has been compared to early Bruce Springsteen, Steve Earle, and Woody Guthrie, and his distinctive guitar style – playing a right-handed guitar flipped left-handed with reversed strings – a unique visual and musical element to his live shows.

The Third Thursday concert series is part of Niles Main Street's ongoing effort to activate downtown through live music, community gathering and support for local businesses. Attendees are encouraged to come early, explore downtown and stay late to enjoy the full experience.

Photo provided

Singer/songwriter Robert Rolfe Feddersen will be performing at The NODE next month.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It's patriotic to pay our taxes

Editor,

After the Great Depression and WWII, our Congress realized their main job was not only protecting but also improving its citizens lives.

From the 1930's to 1960's, Congress created Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, developed regulations preventing bank failures, empowered unions and developed the GI Bill making a home and college affordable for Veterans. All required funding through taxation.

Today 1 percent of Americans hold 32 percent of our country's wealth. These Ultra-wealthy have found ways to avoid paying their taxes. Per a ProPublica 2021 Report, between 2014-2018: Buffet paid .01 percent, Bezos paid 0.98 percent, Bloomberg paid 1.3 percent.

Ultra-wealthy avoid paying taxes by being paid in stock which is not taxable until it's sold. The wealthy take yearly bank loans (at minimal interest) on their stock holdings, then use those loans for lavish lifestyles and then repay previous year's loan debt without ever selling their stock.

In 2025, the Republican-led Congress passed a huge tax bill giving even more tax breaks to the rich. This bill increased the national debt by $3.4 trillion.

While giving large tax cuts to the rich, Republicans greatly cut essential services for middle- and lower-income individuals. As a result of these cuts:

- Affordable Care Act premiums for 20 million Americans doubled.
- 300 rural hospitals were forced to cut services or close.
- Medicaid payments were reduced by $863 billion, affecting 10 million individuals.
- SNAP payments were reduced by $120 billion, increasing food insecurity for 4 million Americans.
- The cost of student loans increased, making college less affordable.

Republicans in Congress are not focused on helping the average citizen, and they are placing the U.S. deeper in debt.

Other countries limit the amount of money wealthy donors and corporations can contribute to politicians. Not so in the US. In 2010, the US Supreme court dramatically opened up more political influence for wealthy donors/corporations with the Citizens United ruling.

Today, Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress have made it a keynote to allow the rich to increase the flow of money into political campaigns.

Please call your Congressional Representative and Senators and tell them to structure the tax code to ensure the ultra-rich pay their fair share of taxes, to reduce our National Debt, and to focus on improving programs supporting the average citizen.

It's patriotic to pay our taxes. Let's push to make sure our tax system is fair.

Kenneth Peterson
MAJ U.S. Army (Ret.)
Buchanan

Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:
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Regular mail: Editorial Page, Leader Publications, 25 N. 2nd St., Niles MI 49120

- All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification.
- Letters must be 500 words or fewer. Letters relating to candidates and ballot issues in upcoming elections will be limited to 300 words.
- Letters must be of general public interest. All letters must be the original work of the authors.
- Leader Publications reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel.

How can I reduce allergens in my home?

By ANGIE HICKS
Ask Angi (TNS)

Spring is in full bloom, but the warm weather also brings the official start of allergy season. While there isn't much you can do to prevent or avoid outdoor allergens, removing indoor irritants can go a long way in making the allergy season more manageable.

Pet dander, dust mites and mold are some of the most common home allergens, so it's important to clean your home thoroughly and regularly keep them at bay. Pay extra attention to areas that collect a lot of dust, like ceiling fans, vents and shelving.

If you don't have the time or ability to clean your home on a regular basis, bring in a professional cleaning service to do it for you. I recommend sharing your allergens (if you have identified them) with your cleaning service to make sure they know what to focus on. If you choose to clean your home yourself, consider wearing a mask to protect yourself from loose dust while cleaning.

You can also make a few upgrades to your home to make it easier to clean. Swap out carpets (which can trap allergens and be difficult to clean) for easy-to-clean hard floors. Dust mites thrive in bedding, so it's also a good idea to cover your mattress and make sure all of your bedding is easy to clean.

Having clean air filters is one of the easiest and most impactful ways to reduce allergens in your home. I recommend replacing your air filters at least once every three months to remove allergens and keep your air as clean as possible. You may need to replace them more often if you have pets, are particularly sensitive to allergens, or live in an area with a lot of pollen or other irritants. If you have a specific allergy trigger, look for an air filter that filters out that particular allergen. You can also give your air quality an extra boost by purchasing an air purifier or two and placing them in high-traffic areas in your home.

A lot of indoor allergens are actually tracked in from outside. An open window, your shoes, or even your clothing could bring in pollen or other outdoor irritants. If you're particularly sensitive to outdoor allergens, take your shoes off when entering your home and keep your windows closed during allergy season.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.

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Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

O'Larry Collins estimates that he has been tending to plants at Creekside Greenhouse for more than 30 years.

COLLINS

From page A1

Creekside Greenhouse throughout next week to peruse the Collinses assortment of flowers and plants, Collins said the grand reopening of Creekside Greenhouse, which will feature more displays of plants, will take place Friday and Saturday.

Collins has been tending to plants at the greenhouse for more than 30 years and says nature's beauty keeps him coming back every year.

"The Earth is full of so much beauty and if you know how to pay attention to it, you can draw from it. It makes you feel good," he said.

When it comes to his gallery, Collins has been practicing various forms of art for more than 40 years. Collins first opened his Art and a Suit at 135 S. Front St., Dowagiac, in October 2015 after noticing a lack of stores selling men's fashion. He has since filled that need by offering his collection of suit jackets, shoes and vintage ties. The business relocated to 115 S. Front St. in 2022 before moving to its current location approximately two years ago.

With Art and a Suit located next to Creekside Greenhouse, two of Collins' passions are now rolled into one. For Collins, being able to present his passions to the community for decades in the same location is a blessing.

"It's unbelievable," he said. "It's much better, much nicer, because you get two 'ahh's,' from people – one for the art and suit shop and one for the greenhouse."

Kyle Lott Agency welcomed with ribbon-tying ceremony

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — A downtown insurance agency was officially welcomed into the Dowagiac business community on Wednesday.

Chamber of Commerce representatives and business owners gathered at Kyle Lott Agency, 216 S. Front St., celebrating the occasion with a ribbon tying ceremony. Several chamber and community members were on hand for the celebrations, including Dowagiac Mayor Patrick Bakeman. Instead of a traditional ribbon cutting ceremony, the chamber uses a ribbon tying ceremony to signify the businesses and the community coming together as one.

Founded by Lott, the agency focuses on personalized insurance solutions and building lasting relationships, helping clients feel confident and prepared for the future.

Jeff Neumann, an insurance agent at Farm Bureau Insurance in Dowagiac for 41 years, congratulated Lott for opening his doors and serving the community. Lott will succeed Neumann next year as the local Farm Bureau agent.

Kyle Lott poses in front of his office at 216 S. Front St.
Photo provided

"I love the business, I love the town and I like Farm Bureau but that succession thing I gave up on because nobody's gonna come in and do what I do. This young man comes along, and I couldn't have picked a better guy," he said. "Every part of his profile is what I want for my clients and when he takes over sometime next year, I'm just pleased. I think the city's going to be served, I think our clients are going to be served and he knows more people than I do already. I'm grateful."

Lott has a strong background in service. A former U.S. Marine Corps member and a former Michigan State Police Officer, Lott decided to set up his business in Dowagiac and jumped right in. He is a member of the VFW and Dowagiac Connected and has volunteered to help with chamber events including the Candlelight Christmas Parade and the Chili Crawl.

Lott thanked everyone for accepting and embracing his team in Dowagiac.

"I would like to say thank you to everybody here. It goes to show that without the community, we're nothing here, no matter what business that is," Lott said. "We're nothing without everybody. It takes the village and takes the city to make everybody come together."

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Olsen wins the MHSCA Rich Tompkins Multi-Sport Award

PMG STAFF

NILES — The Michigan High School Coaches Association announced Tuesday that Niles' Brenden Olsen has been selected as one of eight statewide recipients of the prestigious MHSCA Rich Tompkins Multi-Sport Athlete Award.

Olsen will be formally recognized during the Niles Senior Honors Award Ceremony later this spring. His selection highlights his contributions to athletics, academics and the community throughout his high school career. The nomination and selection process for the Rich Tompkins Multi-Sport Award is conducted through each coach's constituent sport association and the MHSCA.

The award celebrates student-athletes who have demonstrated exceptional commitment by participating in interscholastic athletics across three seasons annually, earning multiple varsity letters, and contributing meaningfully to their school and broader community.

Selection criteria included athletic participation and success, leadership, academic excellence, and involvement in school and community activities.

"The MHSCA, a 72-year-old organization representing nearly 15,000 coaches and athletic administrators, remains dedicated to promoting the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the MHSCA stated in a news release. "We are proud to recognize student-athletes like Mr. Brenden Olsen, whose commitment and values exemplify the very best of high school sports."

Photo provided

Brenden Olsen poses with Niles Athletic Director Matt Brawley.

Brandywine, Niles remain in rankings for state baseball

PMG STAFF

Niles and Brandywine are once again ranked in the top 10 of the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association poll. The Vikings (13-3) are ranked No. 10 in Division 2, while the unbeaten Bobcats (13-0-1) have moved up to No. 8 in Division 3.

Here are the rankings by division:

Division 1

1. Rochester Adams (13-2)
2. BB Rice (17-5-2)
3. Bay City Western (14-2)
4. Oxford (15-1)
5. Woodhaven (14-3)
6. Dexter (12-3)
7. Mattawan (12-5-1)
8. Howell (12-5-1)
9. Romeo (15-3)
10. Grandville (11-4)
11. Okemos (11-2)
12. Hudsonville (10-3-1)
13. Det Catholic Central (10-7)
14. Hartland (9-6)
15. Midland Dow (14-4)
16. Troy Athens (14-4)
17. Allen Park (11-3)
18. Jenison (15-3)
19. Gull Lake (11-3)
20. Mason (12-3)

Division 2

1. New Boston Huron (16-1)
2. Orchard Lake St. Mary's (12-5)
3. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (16-3)
4. East Grand Rapids (10-1)
5. Williamston (14-2)
6. Edwardsburg (12-2)
7. Spring Lake (13-1)
8. Saginaw Swan Valley (16-2)
9. Richmond (13-1)
10. Niles (13-3)
11. Dearborn Divine Child (11-2)
12. Freeland (12-1)
13. Standish-Sterling (9-1)
14. Three Rivers (9-1)
15. Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills (10-0)
16. Ada Forest Hills Eastern (9-4)
17. Parma Western (11-1)
18. Grand Rapids Catholic Central (9-5)
19. Yale (8-5)
20. Hopkins (10-3)

Division 3

1. Traverse City St. Francis (11-1)
2. Detroit Edison (10-4)
3. Jackson Lumen Christi (9-2)
4. Brooklyn Columbia Central (12-2)
5. Lansing Catholic Central (8-0)
6. Monroe St. Mary's Catholic Central (5-1)
7. Grosse Pointe University Liggett (8-6)
8. Niles Brandywine (13-0-1)
9. Grass Lake (11-4)
10. Saginaw Valley Lutheran (7-2)
11. Ravenna (14-1)
12. Whiteford (8-1)
13. Elkton Pigeon Bayport (13-1)
14. Millington (9-5)
15. Reese (15-1)
16. Watervliet (9-5)
17. Springport (13-2)
18. New Haven (10-0)
19. Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (10-1)
20. Montague (10-2)

Division 4

1. Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (14-0)
2. Portland St. Patrick (7-1)
3. Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Central (11-2)
4. Beal City (6-7)
5. Petersburg-Summerfield (5-2)
6. Vermontville-Maple Valley (9-2)
7. Marine City Cardinal Mooney (5-8)
8. Royal Oak Shrine (12-2)
9. Fulton (7-5)
10. Fowler (7-2)
11. Rogers City (8-2)
12. Indian River-Inland Lakes (5-3)
13. Harbor Springs-Harbor Light (11-1)
14. Adrian Lenawee Christian (9-0)
15. Breckenridge (6-4)
16. Decatur (7-3)
17. Byron Center-Zion Christian (7-2)
18. Muskegon Catholic (9-1)
19. Unionville-Sebewaing (5-6)
20. Ubly (7-3)

Photo provided

The Niles baseball team is ranked No. 10 in Division 2 by the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association.

Pritzker: Bears stadium bill in 'framework' of deal the team would accept

By JACK O'CONNOR and JEREMY GORNER
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Gov. JB Pritzker said Tuesday legislation that passed through the Illinois House last week to help the Chicago Bears move to Arlington Heights "is within the framework" of a deal that the team would be willing to agree to, while acknowledging the bill needs changes as it moves through the Senate.

With the Illinois Senate in session this week, its lawmakers would likely have in-person discussions about what direction to take the bill before the legislature's scheduled adjournment on May 31.

But the Bears, who are weighing whether to build a new multibillion-dollar stadium in the northwest suburb or relocate to Hammond, Ind., have indicated that the bill, as currently written, would not be useful in helping the team build in Arlington Heights.

"Within the legislation that was passed was the deal that the Bears are willing to accept, that it's good for the taxpayers, which is what I want," Pritzker said while speaking to reporters at the ribbon-cutting for a Springfield sports complex. "There were also things that were added on top of that that I think are not great for the taxpayers and that we probably need to make some changes to and most importantly, that won't work for the Bears."

"We want the Bears to stay in Illinois. So that deal, I think, is within the framework of what passed the House," he said. "We've got to see if the Senate is able to make the changes that are necessary while keeping some of the things that the House wanted to have in that bill."

On April 22, the bill passed the House 78-32, with 10 Republicans joining the Democratic supermajority in support. There were, however, a few Democrats who opposed the measure.

After it cleared that chamber, the Bears issued a statement acknowledging progress in the legislative process but signaling the team doesn't support the bill as written, saying that "additional amendments are necessary to make the Arlington Heights site feasible for our stadium project."

See **BEARS**, page B1

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HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

PMG STAFF

GIRLS TENNIS

Saturday's results

GRAND RAPIDS SOUTH CHRISTIAN 7, NILES 1

Singles – 1. Cheyenne Small (N) d. Gabby Young 6-2, 6-1; 2. Danya Hendrickson (GRSC) d. Donna Babler 6-3, 6-1; 3. Audi Burgess (GRSC) d. Mia Abarca 6-0, 6-1; 4. Molly Alden (GRSC) d. Aurora Custard 6-0, 6-0.
Doubles – 1. Stella Jelsema-Morgan Struck (GRSC) d. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen 7-5, 6-0; 2. Anneka Schuurmans-Sophie Young (GRSC) d. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlet Thalman 6-1, 7-5; 3. Aletta Vos-Ella Buwalda (GRSC) d. Azlynne Ingle-Norah Rogers 6-0, 6-0; 4. Chloe Hasper-Grace Visser (GRSC) d. Kennedy Holloway-Bella Ladesma 6-0, 6-2.

NILES 5, LAKESHORE 3

Singles – 1. Cheyenne Small (N) d. Alicen Martin 2-0, 2-0; 2. Erin Luckman (L) d. Donna Babler 5-7, 6-4, 10-3; 3. Mia Abarca (N) d. Naomi Reusser 6-2, 6-2; 4. Aurora Custard (N) d. Emilee Hall 6-0, 6-3.
Doubles – 1. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen (N) d. Courtney Hurdle-Anne Mondardo 6-3, 6-3; 2. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlet Thalman (N) d. Niyati Paghda-Anna Radford 6-4, 5-7, 10-3; 3. Layla Mead-Annalise Mahlo (L) d. Azlynne Ingle-Norah Rogers 3-6, 6-4, 10-7; 4. Eva Binkley-Gracie Golden (L) d. Kennedy Holloway-Bella Ladesma 7-5, 6-3.

NILES 6, PAW PAW 2

Singles – 1. Cheyenne Small (N) d. Alyssa Crain 4-6, 6-3, 10-6; 2. Donna Babler (N) d. Amelia Farrell 2-6, 6-4, 10-4; 3. Mia Abarca (N) d. Sofia Martinez 6-2, 6-3; 4. Aurora Custard (N) d. Maggie Willbrandt 6-3, 6-3.
Doubles – 1. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen (N) d. Aili Shaughnessy-Lexie Fisher 3-6, 6-2, 10-7; 2. Brooklyn Hemminger-Scarlet Thalman (N) d. Kate Rentschler-Kylah Jacobs 2-0, 2-0; 3. Lily Brausch-Pam Seckler (PP) d. Azlynne Ingle-Norah Rogers 7-5, 6-0; 4. Mariela Pantoja-Karsyn Reits (PP) d. Kennedy Holloway-Bella Ladesma 6-3, 6-2.

Tuesday's results

OTSEGO 7, NILES 1

Singles – 1. Hailey Burd (O) d. Cheyenne Small 7-5, 6-4; 2. Ellie Korringa (O) d. Donna Babler 6-1, 6-4; 3. Lydia Griffith (O) d. Mia Abarca 6-4, 6-1; 4. Annabel Trumley (O) d. Bella Castillo 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Doubles – 1. Hailee Mitchell-Addison VanDalsen (N) d. Sara McCaw-Stella Houseman 2-6, 7-5, 6-3; 2. Mila Garrett-Hope Stender (O) d. Scarlet Thalman-Brooklyn Hemminger 2-6, 7-5, 6-3; 3. Laney Sweet-Rachel Breese (O) d. Norah Rogers-Aurora Custard 6-1, 2-6, 6-1; 4. Emma Gilson-Brooklynn Cockerel (O) d. Kennedy Holloway-Bella Ladesma 6-2, 6-3.

Thursday's results

BRANDYWINE 7, DOWAGIAC 1

Singles – 1. Sydney Olson (B) d. Hailey Spivey 6-0, 6-0; 2. Louisa Peterson (B) d. Ja'myla Bonds 6-0, 6-0; 3. Chelsy Olson (B) d. Isabella Hertter 6-0, 6-0; 4. Kai Kruger (D) d. Khloe Austin 7-5, 2-6, 10-6.
Doubles – 1. Karleigh Byrd-Lily Gill (B) d. Rylan Miller-Riley Huff 6-0, 6-3; 2. Allison Murray-Holly Anderson (B) d. Lily Lebeda-Chloe Samuel 6-0, 6-1; 3. Aleyna Vollman-Khloe Vanderboegh (B) d. Olivia Stockwell-Kendall Kroepel 6-3, 6-0; 4. Melody Livengood-Alaina Roberts (B) d. Elizabeth Kelly-Belinda Pavia-Morales 6-3, 6-1.

DOWAGIAC 4, LMC/BRIDGMAN 4

Singles – 1. Zoey Heyn (LMCB) d. Hailey Spivey 6-0, 6-0; 2. Emma Pinkowski (LMCB) d. Kylie Lynch 6-0, 6-0; 3. Brooke Holgate (LMCB) d. Makyah West 6-4, 6-0; 4. Kai Kruger (D) d. Lily Stockwell 2-0, 2-0.
Doubles – 1. Sylvie Moersch-Avery Bauer (LMC) d. Rylan Miller-Riley Huff 6-3, 6-1; 2. Aubrey Huber-Langlei Smith (LMCB) d. Lily Lebeda-Chloe Samuel 6-0, 6-2; 3. Kendall Kroepel-Olivia Stockwell (D) d. Abigail Douglass-Jamie Kasper 2-0, 2-0; 4. Leandra Sander-vitek-Victory Jones (LMC) d. Elizabeth Kelly-Belinda Pavia-Morales 6-3, 7-5.

BUCHANAN 6, BERRIEN SPRINGS 2

Singles – 1. Rebeca Ballesteros-Borrego (B) d. Nini Ren 7-5, 6-0; 2. Alex Paturalski (B) d. Melody Kertawidjaja 6-0, 6-2; 3. Finley Kehoe (B) d. Briella Streelman 6-2, 7-5; 4. Emily Holt (B) d. Hyewon Lee 6-1, 7-6 (3).
Doubles – 1. Morgan Weldy-Lillian Wegener (B) d. Ella Eckerley-Sarina Halder 6-1, 6-3; 2. Taylor Sweeney-Ava Sears (B) d. Paige Wagner-Allison Parker 6-3, 6-2; 3. Piper Perez-Angie Pangemanan (BS) d. Madeline Tibbles-Isabella Gedert 6-1, 6-2; 4. Azucena Ventura-Nellie Patsika (BS) d. Addison Brown-Ava Brown 2-6.

TRACK AND FIELD

April 24 results

DON LUKENS INVITATIONAL

Boys
Team scores – 1. Portage Central 127.5 , 2. Kalamazoo Loy Norrix 93.5 , 3. Coldwater 69 , 4. Edwardsburg 68 , 5. Portage Northern 50 , 6. Lansing Sexton 43 , 7. Niles 39 , 8. Stevensville Lakeshore 30 , 9. Mattawan 27 , 10. Benton Harbor 25 , 11. Red Arrow (River Valley-New Buffalo) 24 , 12. Lansing Everett 22 , 13. Buchanan 17 , 14. Kalamazoo Central 15 , 15. Gobles 12.
Top performers
100 – 2. Ben Bruckner (N) 11.17; 5. Fredrik Sante (E) 11.41; 19. Tate Figy (B) 11.93; 200 – 8. Gio Orue (E) 23.54; 20. Vaughn Asmus (N) 24.12; 22. Brody Reed (B) 24.22; 400 – 1. Mobius Stubblefield (E) 50.00; 8. Lucas Debortoli (N) 52.75; 10. Kavion Goss (B) 53.00; 800 – 5. George Scupham (E) 1:59.82; 8. Liam McBeth (B) 2:03.41; 9. John Brickley (N) 2:04.90; 1600 – 2. Liam McBeth (B) 4:50.26; 8. John Brickley (N) 4:41.39; 22. Braiden Schuh (E) 5:08.92; 3200 – 7. John Keser (B) 10:57.16; 11. Braiden Schuh (E) 11:08.02; 19. Oliver Trout (N) 12:08.86; 110 hurdles – 8. Lyle Schaible (E) 16.67; 13. Isaiah Qualls (N) 18.39; 300 hurdles – 10. Isaiah Qualls (N) 46.53; 21. Hayden Wright (E) 51.11; 400 relay – 2. Edwardsburg (Fredrik Sante, Chase Karkiewicz, Mobius Stubblefield, Gio Orue) 44.05; 5. Niles (Vaughn Asmus, Gunner Sherer, Alex Anderson, Ben Bruckner) 44.26; 10. Buchanan (Tate Figy, Jontel Williams, Brody Reed, Carson Deming) 45.14; 800 relay – 8. Buchanan (Carson Deming, Tate Figy, Brody Reed, Jontel Williams) 1:35.24; 1600 relay – 1. Edwardsburg (Lyle Schaible, Mobius Stubblefield, George Scupham, Jack Bell) 3:27.19; 4. Buchanan (Preston Payne, Kavion Goss, Jack Sherwood, Liam McBeth) 3:34.09; 8. Niles (Kadarree Guy, Miguel Rodriguez, Lucas Debortoli, Stephen Applewhite) 3:44.78; 3200 relay – 2. Buchanan (Liam McBeth, John Keser, Jack Sherwood, Jacob Kuntz) 8:29.36 ; shot put – 4. Kamdyn Adams (N) 46-7; 9. Frank Morris (E) 43-3 ; discus – 4. Trenton Scott (N) 125-8; 18. Gavin Combs (E) 88-10 ; high jump – 2. Zachary Overmyer (E) 6-4 ; pole vault – 1. Lucas Frentz (E) 12-6; 4. Liam Beckman (N) 10-6 ; long jump – 3. Ben Bruckner (N) 20-6; 16. Peter Szlanfucht (E) 18-3; 21. Preston Payne (B) 17-6.
Girls
Team scores – 1. Stevensville Lakeshore 147 , 2. Portage Northern 123 , 3. Portage Central 104.5 , 4. Kalamazoo Loy Norrix 66 , 5. Edwardsburg 61 , 6. Mattawan 43 , 7. Niles 25 , 8. Benton Harbor 24 , 9. Gobles 22.5 , 10. Kalamazoo Central 22 , 11. Lansing Sexton 20 , 12. Lansing Everett 1.
Top performers
100 – 13. Riley Petruska (E) 13.87; 17. Kathrin Black (N) 14.20; 200 – 20. Kathrin Black (N) 29.79; 29. Abbigail Peat (E) 32.45; 400 – 1. Alani Scott (N) 59.28; 6. Georgia Babcock (E) 1:02.95; 800 – 9. Layla Gableman (E) 2:40.98; 13. Jennifer Loniello (N) 2:55.97; 1600 – 6. Grace Leman (E) 5:37.23; 16. Alaska Buckhanan (N) 6:24.79; 3200 – 3. Grace Leman (E) 11:59.53; 100 hurdles – 2. Sarina Mora (E) 16.36; 300 hurdles – 8. Sienna Kaylor (E) 53.71; 400 relay – 8. Edwardsburg (Riley Petruska, McKenna Smoker, Caylin Worthington, Finley Eull) 2:09.05; 1600 relay – 3. Niles (Alani Scott, Gianna Ball, Loryana Harris, Katie Walsh) 4:21.37; 7. Edwardsburg (Riley Petruska, Finley Eull, Layla Gableman, Lydia Mahon) 4:56.08; 3200 relay – 5. Edwardsburg (Brynlee Landis, Jade Leith, Giselle Babcock, Layla Gableman) 10:51.57 ; shot put – 17. Alysha Boyne (N) 24-2 ; discus – 2. Sarah Pippin (E) 100-2; 17. Alysha Boyne (N) 65-6.5 ; high jump – 1. Sarah Pippin (E) 5-2; 2. Loryana Harris (N) 4-10 ; pole vault – 4. Madelyn Peat (E) 8-6 ; long jump – 5. Sarina Mora (E) 16-3; 14. Aubrey Burger (N) 13-11.

RED ARROW INVITATIONAL

Boys
Team scores – 1. Red Arrow 112 , 2. Dowagiac Union 105.5 , 3. Eau Claire 76 , 3. Buchanan 76 , 5. Bangor 59.5 , 6. Marquette Catholic 35 , 7. Lawrence 30 , 8. St Joseph Michigan Lutheran 23 , 9. Benton Harbor Countryside 2.
Top performers
100 – 7. Jaylin Medrano (D) 12.38; 200 – 1. Isaiah Weatherspoon (D) 22.79; 400 – 1. Isaiah Weatherspoon (D) 51.78; 800 – 3. Jeremiah Hargreaves (D) 2:17.35; 1600 – 11. Angel Brito (D) 5:33.08; 3200 – 7. Angel Brito (D) 12:09.15; 110 hurdles – 9. Zach Zietlow (D) 20.75; 300 hurdles – 4. Zach Zietlow (D) 46.05; 400 relay – 2. Dowagiac Union (Marcus Wares, Aaron Morgan, Quentin Hill, Jaylin Medrano) 46.02; 800 relay – 2. Dowagiac Union (Devin Rock, Quentin Hill, Aaron Morgan, Jaylin Medrano) 1:33.78; 1600 relay – 1. Dowagiac Union (Devin Maddron, Devin Rock, Isaiah Weatherspoon, Darryl Shivers) 3:38.15; 3200 relay – 2. Dowagiac Union (Devin Maddron, Angel Brito, Axel Santiago, Jeremiah Hargreaves) 9:25.28 ; shot put – 3. Quentin Hill (D) 36-8 ; discus – 13. Austin Rial (D) 80-11.5 ; high jump – 6. Devin Rock (D) 5-2 ; pole vault – 3. Jeremiah Hargreaves (D) 9-6 ; long jump – 6. Marcus Wares (D) 17-4.
Girls
Team scores – 1. Red Arrow 133 , 2. Dowagiac Union 91 , 3. Buchanan 88 , 4. Marquette Catholic 51 , 5. Bangor 47 , 6. Lawrence 40 , 7. Eau Claire 15 , 8. St Joseph Michigan Lutheran 14 , 9. Covert 10.
Top performers
100 – 2. Shamyra Clark (D) 13.97; 200 – 4. Khamari Mack (D) 29.39; 800 – 6. Jocelyn Kiner (D) 2:53.75; 1600 – 1. Jocelyn Kiner (D) 6:15.57; 3200 – 1. Jocelyn Kiner (D) 13:52.47; 100 hurdles – 2. Shamyra Clark (D) 19.23; 300 hurdles – 1. Nadia Poorman (D) 49.63; 400 relay – 2. Dowagiac Union (Khamari Mack, Shamyra Clark, Ella Richter, Nadia Poorman) 54.45 ; shot put – 10. Ah'Mya Lee (D) 22-1 ; discus – 12. Kamyra Barhams (D) 52-4 ; high jump – 2. Nadia Poorman (D) 4-8 ; long jump – 6. Kamyra Bennett (D) 11-1.

UNION CITY INVITATIONAL

Boys
Team scores – 1. Centreville 99 , 2. Quincy 96.5 , 3. Marshall 81.5 , 4. Niles Brandywine 66 , 5. Climax-Scotts 53 , 6. Reading 52 , 7. Homer 33 , 8. Mendon 31 , 9. Coldwater 25 , 10. Union City 21
Top performers
100 – 1. Kaden Santana (NB) 11.22; 200 – 1. Kaden Santana (NB) 22.58; 400 – 11. Parker Anglin (NB) 58.01; 800 – 19. Fernando Soto-Vilagrana (NB) 2:36.12; 1600 – 23. Francis Rivera (NB) 6:57.45; 110 hurdles – 9. Wyatt Pelc (NB) 21.91; 400 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Jase Deming, Kaeden Warfield, Kaden Santana, Matthew Bates) 45.42; 800 relay – 4. Niles Brandywine (Kaeden Warfield, Elijhia Burt, Emmerson Gogley, Lucas Kanagawa) 1:38.01; 1600 relay – 8. Niles Brandywine (Jonatan Gonzalez-Torres, Brady Okerbloom, Parker Anglin, Landon McGnnis) 4:06.91; 3200 relay – 8. Niles Brandywine (Benjamin Travelbee, Jonatan Gonzalez-Torres, Landon McGnnis, Fernando Soto-Vilagrana) 10:32.61 ; shot put – 21. Jaxson Andrews (NB) 34-1 ; discus – 20. Jase Serdel (NB) 90-2 ; high jump – 2. Elijhia Burt (NB) 6-0 ; long jump – 2. Kaden Santana (NB) 20-3.75.
Girls
Team scores – 1. Centreville 116 , 2. Niles Brandywine 100 , 3. Coldwater 67 , 4. Quincy 61 , 5. Homer 48 , 6. Marshall 45 , 7. Union City 37 , 8. Climax-Scotts 25 , 9. Reading 12 , 10. Mendon 2.
Top performers
200 – 4. Karleigh Byrd (NB) 28.12; 800 – 5. Alison Murray (NB) 2:42.82; 1600 – 4. Alison Murray (NB) 6:05.86; 3200 – 2. Emily Kline (NB) 13:46.35; 100 hurdles – 2. Lily Gill (NB) 16.60; 300 hurdles – 1. Lily Gill (NB) 48.51; 400 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Mackenna Price, Karleigh Byrd, Zaya Price, Lily Gill) 52.15; 800 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Mackenna Price, Karleigh Byrd, Zaya Price, Lily Gill) 1:49.89; 1600 relay – 2. Niles Brandywine (Allison Kline, Karleigh Byrd, Zaya Price, Mackenna Price) 4:27.24; 3200 relay – 4. Niles Brandywine (Allison Kline, Emily Kline, Alison Murray, Isabella Padron) 11:59.22 ; discus – 18. Hailey Smith (NB) 66-4 ; high jump – 1. Zaya Price (NB) 5-0 ; long jump – 1. Mackenna Price (NB) 18-0.5.

Tuesday's Results

SOUTHWEST 10 MEET

Boys
Team scores – Decatur 93 , Lawrence 34; Lawrence 71, Cassopolis 45; Decatur 85, Cassopolis 41
Top performers
100 – 1. Aarenn Buck-Hooper (C) 11.69; 200 – 1. Aarenn Buck-Hooper (C) 23.74; 400 – 4. Elijah Harrington (C) 1:05.35; 1600 – 5. Arden May (C) 6:11.97; 400 relay – 1. Cassopolis Ross Beatty (Nikolas Craig, Trevon Peterson-Evans, Cameron Steward, Aarenn Buck-Hooper) 44.95; discus – 4. Carti'Yea Warren (C) 93-07; high jump – 1. Aarenn Buck-Hooper (C) 6-00.00; long jump – 1. Trevon Peterson-Evans (C) 19-09.00.
Girls
Team scores – Lawrence 56, Decatur 49; Lawrence 48, Cassopolis 35; Decatur 65, Cassopolis 32
Top performers
100 – 1. Brooklyn Carter (C) 14.33; 200 – 2. Alayjah Beck (C) 30.51; 400 – 3. Bryanna Nathan-Keck (C) 1:17.49; 4x200 relay – 1. Cassopolis Ross Beatty (Brooklyn Carter, Ava Christopher, Madison Nelson, Maya Walker) 2:04.50; discus – 5. Janay Hawthorne (C) 56-01; long jump – 1. Lyla Smith (C) 13-09.00.

NILES VS VICKSBURG

Boys
Team scores – Vicksburg 96, Niles 41
Top performers
100 – 1. Ben Bruckner (N) 10.97; 200 – 1. Ben Bruckner (N) 22.40; 400 – 7. Stephen Applewhite (N) 58.05; 800 – 3. John Brickley (N) 2:02.76; 1600 – 5. Oliver Trout (N) 533.18; 3200 – 2. John Brickley (N) 10:28.26; 110 hurdles – 4. Isaiah Qualls (N) 18.21; 300 hurdles – 3. Isaiah Qualls (N) 46.13; 4x100 relay – 1. Niles (Alex Anderson, Vaughn Asmus, Gunner Sherer, Ben Bruckner) 43.36; 4x200 relay – 2. Niles (Ollie Rogers, Kadarree Guy, Gunner Sherer, Ben Bruckner) 1:36.96; 4x400 relay – 2. Niles (Lucas Debortoli, Theodore Arseneau, Vaughn Asmus, Kadarree Guy) 3:49.81; 4x800 relay – 2. Niles (John Brickley, Theodore Arseneau, Lucas Debortoli, Owen Riggenbach) 9:18.32 ; shot put – 2. Bryce Young (N) 47-3 ; discus – 8. Gauge Young (N) 91-4 ; high jump – 4. Bruno Kraner (N) 5-3 ; pole vault – 2. Liam Beckman (N) 11-6 ; long jump – 1. Alex Anderson (N) 18-7.75.
Girls
Team scores – Vicksburg 108, Niles 28
Top performers
100 – 3. Kathrin Black (N) 13.78; 200 – 1. Alani Scott (N) 26.02; 400 – 3. Jennifer Loniello (N) 1:10.36; 1600 – 3. Alaska Buckhanan (N) 6:23.59; 300 hurdles – 2. Katie Walsh (N) 53.97; 4x100 relay – 1. Niles (Alissa Conn, Loryana Harris, Gianna Ball, Alani Scott) 51.9; 4x400 relay – 2. Niles (Gianna Ball, Jennifer Loniello, Kathrin Black, Alissa Conn) 4:54.90 ; shot put – 4. Alysha Boyne (N) 25-7 ; discus – 6. Alysha Boyne (N) 62-8 ; high jump – 2. Loryana Harris (N) 5-1 ; long jump – 3. Anastasia Kopczynski (N) 14-10.
Wednesday's results
Brandywine VS Buchanan
Boys
Team scores – Brandywine 88, Buchanan 39
Top performers
100 – 1. Kaden Santana (NB) 11.36; 200 – 1. Kaden Santana (NB) 24.63; 400 – 1. Jack Sherwood (B) 53.45; 800 – 1. Liam McBeth (B) 2:07.21; 1600 – 1. John Keser (B) 4:59.66; 3200 – 1. Silas Schlutt (B) 12:19.70; 110 hurdles – 1. Aiden Toll (B) 19.23; 300 hurdles – 1. Aiden Toll (B) 49.06; 400 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Jase Deming, Emmerson Gogley, Colton Cornelius, Jameson Pleasant) 45.00; 800 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Jase Deming, Emmerson Gogley, Kaeden Warfield, Kaden Santana) 1:43.70; 1600 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Landon McGnnis, Brady Okerbloom, Wyatt Pelc, Jonatan Gonzalez-Torres) 4:21.36; 3200 relay – 1. Buchanan (Christopher Kern, Bentley Molitor, Silas Schlutt, Charlie Spencer) 10:05.46 ; shot put – 1. Elijah Camille-McLeod (B) 36-01; discus – 1. Wyatt Riggs (B) 104-6 ; high jump – 1. Elijhia Burt (NB) 6-3 ; pole vault – 1. Matthew Finn (B) 11-6; long jump – 1. Elijhia Burt (NB) 19-0.5.
Girls
Team scores – Buchanan 86, Brandywine 45
Top performers
100 – 1. Zaya Price (NB) 13.60; 200 – 1. Zaya Price (NB) 28.39; 400 – 1. Mackenna Price (NB) 1:04.25; 800 – 1. Alaina Nagel (B) 2:49.65; 1600 – 1. Alison Murray (NB) 6:08.93; 3200 – 1. Alison Murray (NB) 13:08.83; 100 hurdles – 1. Lily Gill (NB) 19.40; 300 hurdles – 1. Lily Gill (NB) 50.57; 400 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Grace Colbert-Lorenz, Mackenna Price, Karleigh Byrd, Lily Gill) 54.84; 800 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Grace Colbert-Lorenz, Karleigh Byrd, Mackenna Price, Lily Gill) 1:54.47; 1600 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Karleigh Byrd, Allison Kline, Hailey Smith, Mackenna Price) 5:24.61; 3200 relay – 1. Niles Brandywine (Allison Kline, Alison Murray, Emily Kline, Isabella Padron) 12:10.99 ; shot put – 1. Aiiyanna Walker (NB) 25-6.5 ; discus – 1. Morgan Cornelius (B) 73-01 ; high jump – 1. Zaya Price (NB) 4-10 ; pole vault – 1. Adyson Baker (B) 6-6.

DOWAGIAC VS BERRIEN SPRINGS

Boys
Team scores – Berrien Springs 87, Dowagiac 43
Top performers
100 – 2. Jaylin Medrano (D) 11.92; 200 – 3. Jaylin Medrano (D) 24.43; 400 – 2. Devin Rock (D) 54.51; 800 – 2. Jeremiah Hargreaves (D) 2:25.78; 1600 – 4. Angel Brito (D) 5:49.20; 3200 – 2. Balois Franco (D) 13:33.22; 110 hurdles – 1. Zach Zietlow (D) 20.82; 300 hurdles – 1. Zach Zietlow (D) 49.89; 400 relay – 2. Dowagiac Union (Jaylin Medrano, Aaron Morgan, Quentin Hill, Marcus Wares) 46.86; 800 relay – 1. Dowagiac Union (Aaron Morgan, Marcus Wares, Jaylin Medrano, Isaiah Weatherspoon) 1:35.84; 1600 relay – 2. Dowagiac Union (Devin Maddron, Devin Rock, Darryl Shivers, Isaiah Weatherspoon) 3:44.69 ; shot put – 3. Quentin Hill (D) 36-6 ; discus – 1. Quentin Hill (D) 127-5 ; high jump – 3. Cordell Smith (D) 5-0 ; pole vault – 4. Jeremiah Hargreaves (D) 9-0 ; long jump – 3. Aaron Morgan (D) 17-6.
Girls
Team scores – Berrien Springs 106, Dowagiac 27
Top performers
100 – 4. Shamyra Clark (D) 13.80; 200 – 2. Khamari Mack (D) 29.38; 400 – 2. Vianet Hernandez (D) 1:11.20; 1600 – 3. Jocelyn Kiner (D) 6:25.61; 3200 – 1. Jocelyn Kiner (D) 14:16.09; 100 hurdles – 2. Jaleah Henderson (D) 20.26; 300 hurdles – 1. Nadia Poorman (D) 51.93; 400 relay – 2. Dowagiac Union (Shamyra Clark, Ella Richter, Khamari Mack, Nadia Poorman) 53.88 ; shot put – 9. Ah'Mya Lee (D) 21-6.5 ; discus – 13. Ah'Mya Lee (D) 42-5.5 ; high jump – 2. Nadia Poorman (D) 4-6.

EDWARDSBURG VS THREE RIVERS

Boys
Team scores – Three Rivers 95, Edwardsburg 42
Top performers
100 – 1. Fredrik Sante (E) 11.33; 200 – 6. Tanner Mavracic (E) 25.68; 400 – 1. Jack Bell (E) 52.41; 800 – 1. Ethan Ferguson (E) 2:02.06; 1600 – 1. George Scupham (E) 4:32.03; 110 hurdles – 2. Lyle Schaible (E) 17.24; 300 hurdles – 5. Hayden Wright (E) 53.32; 400 relay – 1. Edwardsburg (Fredrik Sante, Chase Karkiewicz, Mobius Stubblefield, Gio Orue) 44.13; 800 relay – 2. Edwardsburg (Jack Bell, Mobius Stubblefield, Tanner Mavracic, Gio Orue) 1:33.54; 1600 relay – 2. Edwardsburg (Ethan Ferguson) 3:59.74; 3200 relay – 2. Edwardsburg (Braiden Schuh, Gavin Ayers, Sawyer Bailey, Clark Stevens) 9:31.50 ; shot put – 3. Dominic Axline (E) 36-6 ; discus – 4. Frank Morris (E) 93-3 ; high jump – 1. Zachary Overmyer (E) 6-5 ; pole vault – 2. Lyle Schaible (E) 8-6 ; long jump – 2. Peter Szlanfucht (E) 18-3.
Girls
Team scores – Three Rivers 85, Edwardsburg 51
Top performers
100 – 2. Riley Petruska (E) 13.84; 200 – 1. Kennedy Goorhouse (E) 28.63; 400 – 1. Georgia Babcock (E) 1:05.06; 800 – 1. Grace Leman (E) 2:35.43; 1600 – 1. Layla Gableman (E) 6:08.07; 3200 – 2. Giselle Babcock (E) 13:32.22; 400 relay – 2. Edwardsburg (Riley Petruska, Cassidy Frentz, Piper Bryant, Kennedy Goorhouse) 54.74; 800 relay – 2. Edwardsburg (Caylin Worthington, McKenna Smoker, Finley Eull, Lydia Mahon) 2:11.34; 1600 relay – 1. Edwardsburg (Riley Petruska, Piper Bryant, Cassidy Frentz, Kennedy Goorhouse) 4:41.81; 3200 relay – 1. Edwardsburg (Brynlee Landis, Jade Leith, Giselle Babcock) 10:59.32 ; discus – 4. Liyah Worthington (E) 62-2 ; high jump – 3. Scarlett Born (E) 4-0 ; pole vault – 3. Abbigail Peat (E) 8-0 ; long jump – 2. Sarina Mora (E) 15-3.5.

SOFTBALL

Tuesday's results

DOWAGIAC 7, BUCHANAN 6

Dowagiac	**011**	**400**	**1**	**—**	**7**	**8**	**1**
Buchanan	**004**	**200**	**0**	**—**	**6**	**7**	**1**

WP – A. Wilson. LP – H. Legault.
Top hitters – Dowagiac: M. Carpenter HR, 2 RBI; C. Reed 2B, 3 RBI; B. Behnke 2B, RBI; C. Hess 2B. Buchanan: H. Griffin 2 1B, 2 RBI; A. Berry 2B, 1B, RBI; C. Weinberg 2 1B, RBI.

DOWAGIAC 8, BUCHANAN 4

Dowagiac	**022**	**022**	**0**	**—**	**8**	**13**	**0**
Buchanan	**300**	**000**	**1**	**—**	**4**	**5**	**3**

WP – B. Campbell. LP – A. Villaire.
Top hitters – Dowagiac: B. Behnke HR, 2B, 2 RBI; C. Reed 2 1B, 2 RBI; A. Wilson 2B, 1B, RBI; C. Hess 2B, RBI; B. Campbell 1B, RBI. Buchanan: A. Berry HR, 2B, 2 RBI; C. Weinberg HR, 2 RBI; R. Berry 2B; T. Carlin 1B.

Thursday's results

WATERVLIET 12, BUCHANAN 7

Watervliet	**060**	**014**	**1**	**—**	**12**	**10**	**0**
Buchanan	**000**	**033**	**1**	**—**	**7**	**10**	**1**

WP – E. Kirskey. LP – H. Legault.
Top hitters – Watervliet: A. Trapp 4 1B, 2 RBI; L. Liberto-Taylor 2B, 3 RBI; R. Prestidge 2B, 2 RBI; E. Kirskey 2B, 1B, RBI; K. Kiefer 1B, RBI. Buchanan: R. Berry 2 1B, 2 RBI; M. Ely 2 1B, RBI; C. Weinberg 2 1B, RBI; H. Griffin 2B, 1B; A. Berry RBI; T. Heller RBI; A. Bosse RBI.

BUCHANAN 9, WATERVLIET 8

Watervliet	**107**	**000**	**0**	**—**	**8**	**12**	**0**
Buchanan	**200**	**121**	**3**	**—**	**9**	**14**	**2**

WP – H. Legault. LP – E. Kirskey.
Top hitters – Watervliet: L. Liberto-Taylor HR, 3 RBI; A. Eberhard 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; K. Kiefer 3 1B; K. Kostrzewa 3 1B; E. Kirskey 2 1B; A. Trapp 1B, RBI. Buchanan: R. Berry HR, 2B, 1B, 4 RBI; T. Carlin 2B, 3 1B, RBI; A. Berry 2 1B; H. Legault 2 1B, RBI; C. Weinberg 1B, RBI; T. Heller 1B, RBI.

GIRLS SOCCER

Thursday's results

THREE RIVERS 4, EDWARDSBURG 1

Goals – Edwardsburg: Marissa Heiser
Records – Edwardsburg 3-5,2-2

Love is the rare NFL RB selected in top 5 of draft

By DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

Ross D. Franklin / AP

Arizona Cardinals NFL football first round draft choice Jeremiyah Love, right, smiles along with Cardinals head coach Mike LaFleur before being introduced during a news conference on April 24 in Tempe, Ariz.

TEMPE, Ariz. — Jeremiyah Love is expected to be somewhat of a superhero for the Arizona Cardinals after they drafted the Notre Dame running back with the No. 3 overall pick in the NFL draft on Thursday night.

So it's fitting he made a comic book reference when describing his offensive philosophy.

"As Spider-Man says – 'With great power, comes great responsibility,'" the 20-year-old said with a wide grin during his introductory news conference on Friday morning.

The 6-foot, 212-pound Love is the earliest running back taken in the draft since Saquon Barkley was selected by the New York Giants with the No. 2 overall pick in 2018. NFL teams have been hesitant to take running backs early in the first round because there's such a premium on other positions such as offensive tackle and edge rusher.

But in certain situations, a running back has so much talent that it's difficult to pass up.

Love believes he's in that group.

"You've got to be able to score those tough touchdowns," Love said. "Guys like Saquon, guys like Bijan (Robinson), guys like Ashton Jeanty, all those guys can do that. I'm no different. I'm going to come into this league and I'm going to put a lot of emphasis on making sure we can extend drives. A running back is very crucial for team success."

The Cardinals obviously agree. That's why first-year head coach Mike LaFleur and fourth-year general manager Monti Ossenfort were fine with making the unorthodox move to select Love at No. 3.

He'll join a crowded running back room that already includes James Conner, Tyler Allgeier and Trey Benson. The Cardinals are in the midst of a rebuild after finishing with a 3-14 record in 2025.

Love ran for 1,372 yards and scored 21 TDs combined in his final season, leading the Fighting Irish to a 10-2 record. His presence in the Cardinals' offense should provide another potent option next to All-Pro tight end Trey McBride and receivers Marvin Harrison Jr. and Michael Wilson.

"There's no secret in this league that explosive (plays) are massive," LaFleur said. "You look at – obviously outside of points – what are the two biggest factors statistically? It's turnovers and explosives and it's actually closer than you think. So any time, any way, you can generate explosives, that's a good thing for the offense.

"I don't have to call the greatest play sometimes when you can just get a ball to a guy like Trey McBride, he breaks three tackles and he turns it into an explosive."

Love grew up in St. Louis and comes from a close-knit family. Both of his parents are retired police officers and U.S. Army veterans, instilling a level of discipline without being overbearing.

His dad Jason called his son a "nerd" who turns into a different person on the football field. The running back's love of comic books has led to him creating a character named "Jeremonstar," who functions as something of an alter ego.

It's another window into Love's personality that's a fascinating mix of confidence and humility. LaFleur said one of Love's best traits is he doesn't have any weaknesses, and excels at pass blocking just as much as playmaking.

That's where Love gets to showcase the "Jeremonstar" part of his personality.

"I get to hit people," Love said. "People always hitting me. So whenever I get to deliver a blow, I'm going to take pride in that and I'm going to do the best of my ability to try and knock your head off. If my quarterback is trying to run, I'm going to make sure I clear a path for him and put my body on the line for that.

"I love pass protection. I love trying to hit people. I'm a football player at the end of the day and used to play defense back in the day. So I've got a little bit of craziness."

BEARS

From page B2

The plan requires the Bears and other developers of so-called megaprojects to negotiate with local governments over payments in lieu of higher property taxes based on updated assessments. But one point of contention with the current bill concerns a provision intended to grant property tax relief to residents near a megaproject site and how workable it would be for the Bears and the various taxing bodies, including school districts.

The provision would require a municipality that hosts a megaproject to deposit half of the negotiated special payment into a locally held property tax relief fund. From there, 60 percent of the money would be used for property tax rebates for homeowners in areas where the megaproject is located, while 40 percent would be deposited into a statewide property tax relief fund.

So far, two state senators told the Tribune they're open to considering the new legislation, but one raised concerns that it could negatively affect the school districts surrounding the Arlington Heights site.

Pritzker has also noted that the Bears want to ensure there's no amusement tax provision that negatively affects the team. While an amusement tax is mentioned in the House bill, its main sponsor, state Rep. Kam Buckner of Chicago, has downplayed concerns that it would affect or even apply to a Bears stadium.

On Tuesday, Pritzker stood by his position that a deal needs to be done "as fast as possible" without giving a specific deadline.

"Well, soon is what I would say is the best thing to do in part because, look, we're competing, right? We have to be competitive here. We want to make sure that the Bears see Illinois as the best alternative for them, and that they have something that they can make a decision about that's in front of them," Pritzker said.

"You've got to go through both the House and the Senate. It takes time to get those things done," he said. "I wish it took less time, but I understand that you've got to make sure you got all the votes and you've got all the provisions in it that are workable for both sides on this."

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0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2024-252-DE
Hon. Carol M. Bealor

Court address
60296 M-62,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
Court telephone no.
(269)445-4453

Estate of:
Colleen Mae Poehlman

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Colleen Mae Poehlman, Deceased died September 2, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Diana Blackburn, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: April 29, 2026

Diana Blackburn
Personal representative
2574 Prospect Point Dr.
Address
Niles, MI 49120
City, state, zip

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0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-050-DE
Hon. Carol M. Bealor

Court address:
Cass County Law & Courts Bldg.
60296 M-62, Ste 10
Cassopolis, MI 49031
Court phone no.
269-4454454

Estate of: David A. Jacobs, deceased
Date of birth: 09/18/1952

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, David A. Jacobs died 11/25/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kristi L. Jacobs personal representative, or to both the probate court at Cass County Law & Courts Bldg.; 60296 M-62, Ste 10, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 04/08/2026

Bush & Bush Attorneys
Howard Bush P11467
Attorney name Bar no.
140 E. Second Street
Constatine, MI 49042
269-435-4705

Kristi L. Jacobs
Personal representative(s)
14254 Hoffman Street
Marcellus, MI 49067

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0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS **COUNTY**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-084-DE
Carol M. Bealor

Court address
60296 M-62,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
Court telephone no.
(269)445-4452

Estate of: Teresa Ann Sult
Date of Birth. * June 2, 1953

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Teresa Ann Sult, Deceased, died February 13, 2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Steven G. Sult, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: April 23, 2026

Willis Law
Chico S. Obande P77880
Attorney name Bar no.
491 W. South Street
Address
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
City, state, zip
(269)492-1040
Telephone

Steven G. Sult
Personal representative
1181 Centerfield Ave
Address
Niles, MI 49120
City, state, zip
(269)240-7180
Telephone

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-096-DE
Carol M. Bealor

Court address Court telephone no.
Law and Courts Building,
60296 M-62,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-4475

Estate of:
Patrick Eugene Parenti
Date of Birth: * July 20,1944

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Patrick Eugene Parenti, died 04/01/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jeffrey A. Parenti, personal representative, or to both the probate court at Law and Courts Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 04/22/2026

Thav, Ryke & Langan
Eric C. Brown P81967
Attorney name Bar no.
24725 W Twelve Mile Rd Ste 110
Address
Southfield, MI 48034
City, state, zip
(248)945-1111
Telephone no.

Jeffrey A. Parenti
Personal representative
16138 S Dan Oconnell Dr
Address
Plainfield, IL 60586
City, state, zip
(630)661-4013
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POKAGON TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO: The residents and property owners of Pokagon Township, Cass County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pokagon Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pokagon Township Hall located within the Township, on the following matters:

1. To consider the rezoning request by Joseph Gavan, a portion of parcel ID # 14-110-011-204-31, from a R1 district to a General Commercial district.

2. Such other matters as may properly come before the Planning Commission.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the planning commission reserves the right to amend the requested rezoning to consider other such zoning classifications and to make its recommendation accordingly at or following the public hearing to the Pokagon Township Board.

PLEAE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Master Plan and the Zoning Ordinance are available for public examination at the Township Hall located at 30683 Peavine Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047, up to and including the date of the public hearing, and may also be examined at the public hearing. Further, written comments will be received from any interested persons at the Township office, up to and including the date of the public hearing and may also be submitted to the Planning Commission at said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Pokagon Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days written notice to the Township Clerk Christina Davis, 30683 Peavine Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047 or by calling her at (269) 782-8756.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place to take part in the discussion on the proposed rezoning.

POKAGON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Christina Davis, Clerk
30683 Peavine Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 782-8756

Around 10pm the Cassopolis Sanitary Sewer Collection System experienced a sudden and unexpected power surge at a waste pumping station during the thunderstorms and power restoration efforts of AEP. The waste pumping stations control panel had multiple components fail, leading to loss of alarm communications and pump controls. The Cassopolis Department of Public Works on call personnel was following up on the station to ensure that it was running normally after the power outage when they found the station overflowing on the ground. A quick response from the Cassopolis DPW staff had them installing a temporary bypass pump in the rain and thunderstorm within the hour. An estimated amount of less than 10,000 gallons of sewage spilled on to the ground during the storm. None of the sewage spilled into the nearby creek and hydrated lime was spread on the ground where the sewer spilled. The temporary bypass pump will remain set up, and daily inspections will be made until new panel components can be purchased and installed.

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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, Michigan starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. on June 3, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by Patrick J. Brodzinski, a single man, as Mortgagor to First Federal Savings Bank, with its address at 301 East Ninth Street, Rochester, IN, 46975-0527 as Mortgagee, dated February 13, 2009, and recorded February 24, 2009, Liber 989, Page 2381, Cass County Records, Cass County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is $48,105.42 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the fixed rate of 5% per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in Milton Township, County of Cass, State of Michigan, described as: LOT 5, DUNNING ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN LIBER 1G of PLATS, PAGE 333. Parcel No. 14-070-300-005-00 Commonly known address: 29154 US 12, Niles, Michigan 49120 The redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(12), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. April 23, 2026 First Federal Savings Bank PLUNKETT COONEY Lisa A. Hall (P70200) Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4615 (05-02)(05-30)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, Michigan starting promptly at 10:00 AM on MAY 20, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Joseph R. Reaves and Tara R. Reaves, to Fifth Third Bank, Mortgagee, dated October 24, 2019 and recorded October 29, 2019 in Liber 1162, Page 2318 Cass County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Ninety-Four Thousand One Hundred Forty-One and 42/100 Dollars ($94,141.42).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on MAY 20, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Milton, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Lots Numbered 8 and 9 of DUNNING ACRES, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, page(s) 333 of Cass County Records; EXCEPTING THEREFROM That part of said Lots 8 and 9 which lies Southeasterly of a line described as: Commencing at the East Quarter corner of Section 11, Town 8 South, Range 16 West, thence South 00 degrees 10 minutes 42 seconds East along the East line of said Section 11 a distance of 452.79 feet to the point of beginning, thence South 35 degrees 55 minutes 44 seconds West a distance of 242.37 feet to the survey line of Highway US-12 and point of ending.
69594 Anderson Rd, Niles, Michigan 49120
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: April 18, 2026
File No. 26-003083
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (04-18)(05-09)

HIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made by TOBY A. MITCHELL, a single man, residing at 66073 Maple Wood Road, Edwardsburg, MI 49112 OAK MORTGAGE, LLC (n/k/a STURGIS BANK & TRUST COMPANY) dated October 20, 2023, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Cass and State of Michigan, on November 1, 2023 in Liber 1239 of Mortgages, on page 140. There is claimed to be due on the date of this notice, for principal and interest the sum of Six hundred thirty-four thousand, two hundred thirty-nine dollars and 49/100 ($634,239.49) Dollars on the mortgage and no proceedings having been instituted to recover the debt now remaining secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof, where by the power of sale contained in said Mortgage has become operative;

Now Therefore, Notice is Given that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, the said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises therein described or so much thereof as may be necessary, at a public auction sale, to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, at the West outer door of the Courthouse in the City of Cassopolis and County of Cass, Michigan, that being the place of holding Circuit Court in and for said County, on June 3, 2026, at promptly 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of said day; which said mortgage premises are described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 19 in Woodfield Hills Subdivision No. 2, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1-L of plats, Page 562, Cass County Records.

Property Address: 66073 Maple Wood Drive, Edwardsburg, MI 49112
PIN: 14-030-230-019-00

Said premises will be sold to pay the amount as aforesaid then due on said Mortgage together with 7.50% percent interest on the Mortgage, legal costs, attorneys' fees and also any taxes and insurance that said Mortgagee does pay on or prior to the date of said sale. The amount due on said Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the last day to redeem the Sheriff's Deed will be December 3, 2026, however, if an Affidavit of Abandonment is filed with the Register of Deeds, the last day to redeem will be July 3, 2026, or until the time to provide the notice was required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later.

If said property is in fact sold at the above-described foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the above listed Mortgagor will be responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to Sturgis Bank & Trust Company for damaging the property during the redemption period.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this Notice.

ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: May 2, 2026 Sturgis Bank & Trust Company
Mortgagee.

HaasCaywood PC
By: P. Joseph Haas, Jr.
Attorney for Sturgis Bank & Trust Company
Business Address:
112 South Monroe Street, Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 651-3281

Classifieds Make a Cash Connection!

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Leona A. Hawkins, not stated, T/B/E, to Beneficial Michigan Inc., Mortgagee, dated March 27, 2006 and recorded March 30, 2006 in Liber 933, Page 964 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as indenture trustee, for the holders of the CIM Trust 2021-R1, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2021-R1, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty and 15/100 Dollars ($49,980.15).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JUNE 17, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Village of Vandalia, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Land situated in the Village of Vandalia, County of Cass, State of Michigan:Lots 16, 17 & 18, Hains Addition to the Village of Vandalia according to the recorded Plat thereof.Excepting therefrom the following described premises in the Village of Vandalia in CassCounty and State of Michigan: Lot Twelve (12), Hains Addition to the Village of Vandalia according to the recorded Plat thereof.Tax Parcel No.: 14-101-200-016-00
17713 South Street, Vandalia, Michigan 49095
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: May 2, 2026
File No. 24-006519
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (05-02)(05-23)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 am, on May 20, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Brent W. Braaksma and Katie J. Braaksma, husband and wife, whose address is 66741 Conrad Road, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112, as original Mortgagors, to Fifth Third Mortgage Company, being a mortgage dated October 9, 2013, and recorded on October 21, 2013 in Liber 1068 Page 286, Cass County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated February 6, 2026 and recorded on February 6, 2026 in Liber 1271 Page 2509, Cass County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND NINETY-EIGHT AND 68/100 DOLLARS ($264,098.68). Said premises are situated in the City of Edwardsburg, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and are described as: PARCEL I FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 30, TOWN 7 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST, MEASURE EAST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 471.94 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED, THENCE NORTH 18 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 31 SECONDS EAST 53.54 FEET, THENCE NORTH 05 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST 65.49 FEET; THENCE NORTH 23 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST 151.21 FEET, THENCE NORTH 07 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST 168.57 FEET, THENCE NORTH 25 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST 53.31 FEET; THENCE NORTH 13 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST 79.97 FEET; THENCE NORTH 14 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 11 SECONDS WEST 134.26 FEET, THENCE NORTH 07 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 19 SECONDS WEST 138.57 FEET, THENCE NORTH 28 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 56 SECONDS WEST 86.14 FEET, THENCE NORTH 46 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST 70.39 FEET, THENCE EAST 80.88 FEET, THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST 309.90 FEET TO AN INTERMEDIATE TRAVERSE LINE ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF PINE LAKE, THENCE SOUTH 53 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 43 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID TRAVERSE LINE, 272.24 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 15 ACRES OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST FRACTIONAL QUARTER OF SAID SECTION, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, 1089.43 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SAID SECTION, THENCE WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, 51.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. INCLUDING ALL LAND BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST LINES EXTENDED NORTHERLY TO THE WATER'S EDGE OF PINE LAKE. PARCEL II RIGHTS AND BENEFITS OF AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE. BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 30, TOWN 7 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION, 16.50 FEET, THENCE EAST, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 460.15 FEET, THENCE NORTH 18 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 31 SECONDS EAST 38.25 FEET, THENCE NORTH 05 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST 59.35 FEET; THENCE NORTH 23 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 16 SECONDS WEST 150.88 FEET, THENCE NORTH 07 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST 168.19 FEET; THENCE NORTH 25 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST 52.33 FEET; THENCE NORTH 13 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST 81.66 FEET, THENCE NORTH 14 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 11 SECONDS WEST 135.24 FEET; THENCE NORTH 07 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 19 SECONDS WEST 138.50 FEET, THENCE NORTH 28 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 55 WEST 80.47 FEET, THENCE NORTH 46 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST 84.95 FEET, THENCE EAST 47.58 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 46 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST 55.84 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 28 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST 81.80 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 07 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 19 SECONDS EAST 140.65 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 14 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 11 SECONDS EAST 133.29 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 13 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST 78.27 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 25 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 53 SECONDS EAST 54.28 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 07 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 168.95 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 23 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EAST 151.54 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 05 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 28 SECONDS EAST 71.63 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 18 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST 51.40 FEET TO THE SAID SOUTH LINE, THENCE WEST 489.38 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING PARCEL III RIGHTS AND BENEFITS OF AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE. FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 30, TOWN 7 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST, MEASURE EAST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 471.94 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED, THENCE NORTH 18 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 31 SECONDS, 17.43 FEET, THENCE EAST, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 45.71 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 15 ACRES OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST FRACTIONAL QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, 16.50 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, 51.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 66741 Conrad Road, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241(a) in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: April 18, 2026 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490) Johnson, Blumberg & Associates LLC 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602 312.541.9710 - Phone 312.541.9711 - Fax File No.: MI 26 7142 (04-18)(05-09)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 27, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Steven W. Robinson, unmarried Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: February 28, 2012 Recorded on March 1, 2012, Liber 1037, on Page 2589, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Forty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Five and 88/100 Dollars ($45,845.88) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot Numbered One Hundred Twenty-seven (127), Andrew Lester`s Addition to the City of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, page 53, Cass County Records. Commonly known as 113 Bishop St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1590682 (04-18)(05-09)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CASS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 (269) 445-4412

FRANK & FRED, LLC
Plaintiff
vs
HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS OF ELLA E. BATCHELOR AND MATTIE CHAPMAN AND THOSE WITH CLAIMS TO REAL ESTATE
Defendants

ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE
File No.: 26-000104-CH
HON. MARK A. HERMAN

JOHN R. COLIP (P25250)
BUTZEL LONG
Attorneys for Plaintiff
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

AT A SESSION of said Court at the Courthouse in the City of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan, on March 23, 2026

PRESENT: Honorable Mark A. Herman, Trial Court Judge

On Motion of Plaintiff, Frank & Fred, LLC, by and through its attorney, JOHN R. COLIP Esq., of the law firm of BUTZEL LONG, herein and the Court having read the verified Motion for Substituted Service, and being fully advised in the premises:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, That Plaintiff's Motion for Substituted Service be, and it is hereby granted, and that service shall be made upon Defendants, in this matter by: (i) posting a copy of this Order with Attachment "A" in the Courthouse and in two other public places in Ontwa Township for three continuous weeks; and (ii) publishing this Order with Attachment "A" in the Leader, a newspaper published in Cass County, Michigan, for three consecutive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That PCI Services is to post this Oder with Attachment "A" and provide proof of posting in compliance with this Order and file Proof of Posting with this Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that mailing a copy of this Order to Unknown Parties, their Heirs and Successors, is not necessary since there is no ascertainable way to determine the address nor the specific identity of those Defendants.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attachment "A" is made a part of this Order and will accompany any posting or publication.

Date: March 23, 2026 Honorable Mark A. Herman (P34735)
Cass County 43rd Circuit Court Judge

Prepared by:
John R. Colip, Esq. (P25250
12 Longmeadow Village Drive Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

ATTACHMENT "A" TO ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

NOTICE OF COMMENCMENT OF ACTION

An action to Quiet Title has been filed in the Cass County Circuit Court, in the State of Michigan. This action is filed by Plaintiff, Frank & Fred, LLC, against Defendants: Heirs and Successors of Ella E. Batchelor and Mattie Chapman and those with Claims to Real Estate, and any other persons or entities claiming any right or title to property located in Ontwa Township, Cass County, Michigan and legally described as:

The West 2 acres of the East 16 acres of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 8 South, Range 15 West, Cass Couty, Michigan

You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in the Cass County Circuit Court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031, on or before 28 days from the date of the last publication. If you fail to do so, a Default Judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint filed in this case. You may contact the law offices of BUTZEL LONG, 12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100, Niles, MI 49120, 269-591-6915, for any information on this matter.

Prepared By:
John R. Colip, Esq. (P25250)
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

CALVIN TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN SAIL BAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (AQUATIC VEGETATION CONTROL) NOTICE OF MAY 12, 2026, PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CALVIN, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN; OWNERS OF ALL LOTS/PARCELS WITH FRONTAGE TO AND BACK LOTS ON SAIL BAY; AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Assessing Officer of Calvin Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a proposed special assessment roll/ special assessment column in the regular tax roll pertaining to the 2026 Sail Bay Improvement Project Special Assessment District (Aquatic Vegetation Control) created by the Township Board at a public hearing/meeting on November 12, 2019.

The proposed special assessment roll in the Township proposes to allocate the Township's portion of the costs of a five-year aquatic vegetation control program (2026 – 2030) in the approximate total amount of $52,135.00 over the five-year program to the lake lots within the district. The amount proposed to be assessed against each lake lot in the district is $165.00 per lake lot and $82.50 for back lots on Diamond Lake.

Because the costs for the aquatic vegetation control program may vary from year to year based on the effectiveness of the prior year's treatment program, and other variables, a redetermination of costs may be necessary on an annual basis, without change in the special assessment district boundaries. The annual assessments for years 2026 – 2030 are therefore subject to redetermination by the Township Board on a yearly basis when the actual costs of the yearly treatment and any related administrative costs are known. Any such annual redetermination as may be necessary will be made by October or November of 2026 – 2030 without further public hearing or notice, except as may be required by law or as may be further determined by the Township Board; providing that in any such instance the allocation of individual special assessments resulting from an annual redetermination shall be based on the same proportional allocation of costs used for the initial assessment of $165.00 and $82.50.

A public hearing on any objections to the proposed special assessment roll in the township will be held at the Calvin Township Hall, located at 18727 Mt Zion, Cassopolis, Michigan in conjunction with the regular board meeting of the township on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 5:45.

The proposed special assessment roll (and the current project plans, estimate of costs, the Special Assessment District boundaries and the resolution of the Township Board creating the Special Assessment District and directing the Assessing Officer of the Township to make the proposed special assessment roll) may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk and may further be examined at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT APPEARANCE AND PROTEST AT THIS HEARING IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE AMOUNT OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO THE MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL. AN OWNER OR PARTY IN INTEREST OR HIS OR HER AGENT MAY APPEAR IN PERSON AT THIS HEARING TO PROTEST A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, OR MAY FILE AN APPEARANCE OR PROTEST BY LETTER WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE HEARING OR WITHIN SUCH FURTHER TIME AS THE TOWNSHIP BOARD MAY GRANT, IF ANY, AND IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES A PERSONAL APPEARANCE AT THE HEARING SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED. THE OWNER OR ANY PERSON HAVING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY WHO PROTESTS IN PERSON OR IN WRITING AS PROVIDED ABOVE MAY FILE A WRITTEN APPEAL OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL WITHIN 35 DAYS AFTER THE CONFIRMATION OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL.

The hearing, and all proceedings associated with these special assessment matters will be conducted in accordance with and pursuant to 1954 PA 188, as amended, the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and any other applicable law.

Michelle Anderson, Calvin Township Clerk

OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Peregrine falcons visit St. Joseph lighthouse

Marc Thrum photographed a pair of peregrine falcons on April 15 on the outer lighthouse at St. Joseph.

Many peregrine falcons spend the winter as far south as Chile and Argentina, and migrate north to the Arctic regions for the breeding season. It is likely the two peregrine falcons in Thrum's photo were heading to the far north.

Jonathan Wuepper
Southwest Michigan Wildlife

The peak spring migration period for peregrine falcons is mid-April. Fall migrants generally pass through Southwest Michigan during September and October. There are a few winter records for our region, but the species is considered rare to uncommon through the year.

The peregrine falcon has a worldwide distribution, found on all continents except Antarctica. It is also found on many oceanic islands.

Peregrine falcons were nearly eliminated from North America during the mid-20th century, primarily because of the pesticide DDT, causing egg shells to thin and crack during incubation. In 1972, DDT was banned in the United States. The pesticide was also phased out in Canada beginning in the 1970s.

The peregrine falcon was found in Michigan at the time of settlement, but it was always considered uncommon. Natural nesting sites included tall trees and cliffs, mainly along the Lake Superior shoreline.

Peregrine falcons have adapted to nesting on tall buildings around the world. In Europe, peregrine falcons have nested on cathedrals and castles for hundreds of years.

The last natural nesting of the species in Michigan occurred in 1957, followed by a long absence as a breeding species in the state.

State and provincial reintroduction programs began in North America during the 1970s.

In Michigan, captive reared young peregrine falcons were reintroduced during the 1980s in the Upper Peninsula, Detroit and Grand Rapids.

By the 1990s, the peregrine falcon had been reestablished as an uncommon migrant and nesting species in Michigan, and remains so today.

Photo provided / Marc Thrum

Peregrine falcons perched on the rail of the outer lighthouse in St. Joseph on April 15.

Photo provided / Gene Schoon

Osprey on a nest atop a light pole along Gardner Road in Weesaw Township on March 31.

Gene Schoon of Bridgman photographed an osprey on March 31 that was building a nest atop a phone pole along Gardner Road in Weesaw Township.

The osprey is another bird of prey that was nearly wiped out, at least in the eastern US, by DDT.

Its numbers have rebounded since the 1970s across Michigan. Berrien County is now home to a few nesting ospreys. The osprey nest site near the Boyle Lake State Game Area has been active for several years.

Osprey feed primarily on fish but will also eat small birds, rodents, crustaceans. Brood of three young ospreys require six pounds of fish daily to survive.

The adult male osprey feeds the adult female from the time of courtship through egg laying.

Jonathan Wuepper is an area naturalist. Report your sightings to him at wuepperj@gmail.com

Sarett Nature Center

Sarett Nature Stewards: 2-4 p.m. each Wednesday. This program is a way to experience Sarett in a whole different way. By being a nature steward you are helping Sarett but you also gain a sense of well-being. Sarett's crew will teach you many different skills such as collecting viable seeds for future planting, how to identify invasive species from native ones, removing invasive plants, and more. Ages 10+.

Birding for Beginners: 9-11 a.m. May 2. This introduction will cover everything you need to know about birding, whether you are wondering which birds are visiting your feeders or if you want to go far afield. Sarett will even provide binoculars for you to use during class time. Cost is $5 per class for members, $7 for non-members. Call 927-4832 to register.

Watervliet Rod & Gun Club

Ladies Day Basic Firearm Safety and Training Class: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. May 23 at the club, 3413 Hennessey Road in Watervliet. Ladies, here is your chance to learn to safely handle and use firearms, and learn about different kinds of ammunition and firearms. Have the opportunity to shoot .22 caliber handguns, rifles, and 20-gauge shotguns on the range with one-to-one instruction. Cost is $30. Lunch, firearms and ammo provided. Bring eye and ear protection. For more information, call (269) 470-9191 or (269) 861-5156, or email wrg49098@gmail.com.

Michigan Concealed Pistol Classes: Held monthly at the club. Cost is $100. For more information or to register, call (269) 470-9191 or (269) 463-8785, or go to watervlietrodandgunclub.org

Warren Woods Park

Volunteer Stewardship Workday: 10 a.m.-noon May 2. Meet at the main parking area. Spend a day in this beautiful example of a beech-maple forest helping to protect native habitat. We will meander off trail to survey and pull invasive garlic mustard. All tools and equipment will be provided, and volunteers will be trained to identify the target species. Long pants, long shirts are highly recommended.

Email info for Get Outdoors to sports@TheHP.com, or call 429-1294 by Monday.

No answers on 5 dead bald eagles in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

By CHARLES E. RAMIREZ
The Detroit News (TNS)

DETROIT — Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials are asking the public for help to find what killed five bald eagles in the Upper Peninsula.

The eagles' carcasses were found between April 3 and April 17 in a single area of Garden Peninsula in Delta County, the department said Monday. The peninsula is bordered by Big Bay de Noc to the west and Lake Michigan to the east.

"The DNR is requesting tips from the public to help solve this ongoing investigation," First Lt. Mark Zitnik, the department's Law Enforcement supervisor in Newberry, said in a statement. "We can confirm that the eagles did not die from natural causes, predators, or vehicle collisions."

He said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Department and local tribes are assisting with the investigation.

Eagles are a state and federally protected species. Anyone who kills an eagle in Michigan could face 90 days in jail, a fine of $100 to $1,000, and could be ordered to reimburse the government $1,500.

Zitnik said tips that lead to the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible for the birds' deaths may be eligible for a cash reward.

Anyone with information about the eagles' deaths should call or text the DNR's Report All Poaching Hotline at 1-800-292-7800. Tipsters may remain anonymous.

Other reports of wildlife killed illegally in Michigan have sparked investigations and charges.

In November 2024, an Otsego County man was charged with hunting violations and poaching deer.

In May 2024, two northern Michigan men were charged with torturing and illegally killing animals in Kalkaska County.

In December 2018, a 60-year-old Taylor man was charged with illegally killing a bull elk in Otsego County.

Researchers: Isle Royale's wolves thriving as packs prey on moose

By TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

Wolves on a remote island in Lake Superior appear to be thriving, but they're making deep dents in the moose population that they rely on as a leading food source, according to a report released Monday.

Isle Royale is a 134,000-acre national park in far western Lake Superior between Grand Marais, Minnesota, and Thunder Bay, Canada. The island is a natural laboratory, offering scientists a rare opportunity to observe wolves and moose largely free from human influence.

Researchers have conducted wolf and moose population surveys on the island since 1958. The surveys had been an annual winter event when the roadless island is closed to visitors, but researchers have run into obstacles in recent years.

The pandemic in 2021 forced scientists to cancel the survey for the first time. The National Park Service ordered researchers to evacuate the island during their 2024 winter survey after weeks of unusually warm weather left the ice surrounding the island unsafe for ski-plane landings. Researchers rely on the planes for easier wildlife tracking but the island has no runway, forcing them to land on iced-over Lake Superior. Things didn't go much better last year when researchers were forced to scrap the effort after their pilot suffered a last-minute medical issue.

But this year a team of researchers led by scientists from Michigan Tech University were able to conduct a survey from Jan. 22 through March 3. Their findings led them to estimate the island's wolf population at 37 animals. Data gathered before researchers evacuated in 2024 showed the population at 30.

The 2026 estimates are the highest since the late 1970s and represent a marked improvement since the population dwindled to just two wolves a decade ago. Researchers believe inbreeding led to depressed survival rates in pups.

The island's moose population, though, is declining dramatically. This year's survey put the population at 524 moose, down 75 percent from a high of 2,000 in 2019.

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